



AUTUMN 1992

ISSUE 33

LITERARY SOURCES OF STAR WARS

Lisa Cowan

George Lucas has listed several sources of inspiration for his STAR WARS and Indiana Jones movies, from Joseph Campbell and his books on myth analysis, to old TV and movie serials, and to the Bible.

While doing research on my article, "Lost in the Mists of Time: The Muddled Myths of the Holy Grail," for the summer issue of THE LUCASFILM MAGAZINE, I came across a most interesting book in the public library. THE SPEAR OF DESTINY by Trevor Ravenscroft is a weird, wild and wonderful look at "The Occult Power behind the Spear which pierced the side of Christ ... and how Hitler inverted the Force in a bid to conquer the World." Those words in quotes are on the cover of the trade paperback version of the book I now own.

The author, Trevor Ravenscroft—note the similarity to one Ravenwood (Marion) from RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK—is an interesting person. Born in England in 1921, he served as a Commando officer in WWII. He was captured in North Africa on a raid which attempted to assassinate Field Marshal Rommel. He escaped three times from a POW camp, but was recaptured. After the war, Ravenscroft became a journalist and began his intensive research for this book.

Part one of the book delves deep into the legends surrounding the Spear of Destiny, as

well as the Holy Grail, as the two are often linked in myth. Part two deals with the early life of Adolf Hitler and his rise to power. It was in this section, on page 174, chapter 12, that I came across a paragraph which sent chills of eerie recognition down my back. Hitler had a circle of friends involved in the occult and one day "a far-sighted woman in Adolf Hitler's circle said to him warningly: 'My Leader, don't touch Black Magic! As yet both white and black magic are open to you. But once you've embarked on black magic it will dominate your destiny. It will hold you captive. Do not choose the quick and easy successes. There lies before you the power over a realm of pure spirits. Do not allow yourself to be led away from your true path by earth-bound spirits, which will rob you of your creative power.'"

Sound a little familiar? In THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, Yoda tells Luke: "But beware of the Dark Side. Anger...fear...aggression. The Dark Side of the Force are they. Easily they flow, quick to join you in a fight. If once you start down the dark path, forever will it dominate your destiny, consume you it will, as it did Obi-Wan's apprentice."

Interesting, isn't it? Another person who knew the Führer, said Hitler was drawn to "forces of dark and destructive violence."

Hitler was obsessed by dark powers, one of which was the Spear of Destiny, which is said to give its owner immunity in battle. When Hitler was a young man, an artifact called the "Heilige Lance", an ancient spear that some say is the spear head which a Roman centurion thrust into the side of Jesus Christ at the Crucifixion, was on display at the Hapsburg Treasure House in Austria. When Hitler gazed upon it, he was said to be transfixed and could feel incredible power emanating from the metal and wood object. When he came to power and annexed Austria, he quickly took personal possession of the artifact. He believed it would make him invincible and even immortal. Actually, history has shown that every owner of this Spear, since the days when Charlemagne owned it, has died a violent death. Today, the Spear is back at the Hapsburg Museum.

Part three of the book deals with the symbolism of the Spear of Destiny, various occult groups in Germany, and the rise and fall of Hitler's vast power. While reading this book, I found many items that could relate in various ways to both the STAR WARS saga and the Indiana Jones movies. Nothing quite so startling as the section in chapter 12, but there was "something familiar" about several other turns of phrase and ideas discussed by Ravenscroft.

When I mentioned the book to Dan Madsen (a fellow Arthurian devotee), he too was familiar with it and said he had asked George Lucas about the book during one of his interviews. Madsen says that Lucas admitted being fascinated by the book and said that he had used it for reference several times in the past.

The original British and American 1973 hardcover versions of THE SPEAR OF DESTINY are sought after collectors items. Used bookstores here in California sell copies for around \$75.00 and more. However, there is a 362 page trade paperback edition still in print and

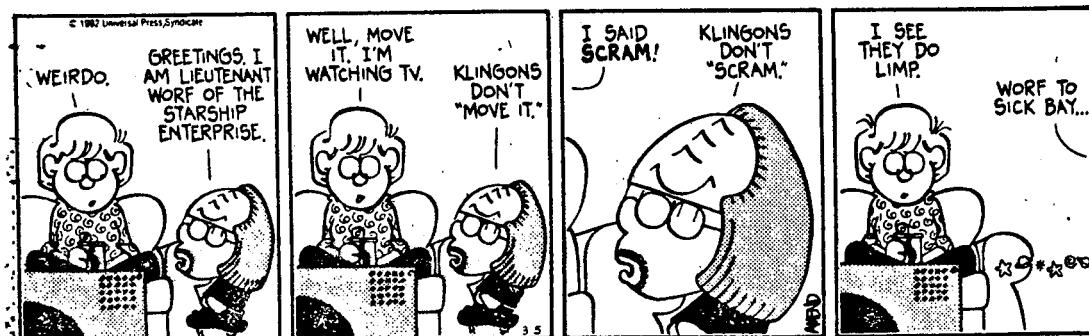
available for only \$10.95 (plus postage) from the publisher, Samuel Weisner, Inc., P.O. Box 612, York Beach, ME 03910.

Another book which may have had a slight influence on Lucas, is an in-depth archaeological look at an ancient city in the desert of Jordan. JAWA: LOST CITY OF THE BLACK DESERT by S. W. Helms is a rather scientific study of an ancient ruin in a remote corner of a bleak basalt Jordanian desert. The 5,000 year old city was only discovered by off-course aviators in 1931. No other settlement was built after Jawa was deserted, making it the best preserved Bronze Age city yet discovered. Its remoteness insured that few artifacts had been taken and, even today, few archaeologists have visited the site.

The title of the book leaped out at me on the shelf of a local used bookstore, and the extensive use of photographs, maps and detailed illustrations make the book interesting despite the rather dry scientific prose. Actually, the 1981 copyright date means the book itself was not the source of Lucas' use of the name Jawa, and most likely he has not read it, but he may well have heard of the city in one of his anthropology classes or while doing research.

The Jawaites were very industrious people who invented a modern and complex irrigation and water storage system, and who built two and three story rock and mud buildings. They were not scavengers like the Jawas of Tatooine, but since they were near an ancient trade route (long since abandoned, even by the few bedouins in the area), they were probably just as skilled in trading.

JAWA is only available in hardcover (270) pages, published by the Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. No price listed. I don't know if it is still available from the publisher.





REVIEWING THE FLEET

DARK FORCE RISING by Timothy Zahn (Bantam Books; 376 pp; \$18.50 U.S., \$22.50 Canada)

Reviewed by Z. P. Florian

The second part of the "Heir" trilogy, DARK FORCE RISING, has indeed risen a notch above the first part, but that still leaves the book somewhere on the fifteenth rung of a 100 rung ladder. The plot is about as good as any half-decent fan story with a not-too-stunning assembly of aliens and some very fine spacefaring vessels. Han's character is done with more care this time, the Noghri's problems are nicely invested, realistic fantasy. But Mara Jade is still the eternal Mary Sue, and not even a particularly pleasant one. Luke, IMO, is a little weaker than in the first part. I think his youthful, trusting nature is quite overdone, especially in the relationship with C'Baoth. To say something good as well: Zahn has a fine way with alien names, a rather important feature in an SW story. He also has the "heroic banter" down pat, maybe too much so. Our heroes are tirelessly reliable in non-stop action, like well-oiled droids. No one ever stumbles or stops to think. The book is not much more than a nice, smooth little SW episode. Nothing is exciting enough to keep you from putting the book down and going to fix a sandwich. I must add a sentence about the cover art: It is so outrageously bad that one must wonder who at Bantam would approve it, considering the normally very high standards for book covers.

oooooooooooooooooooo

DARK EMPIRE 1-4 (Dark Horse Comics)

Reviewed by Z. P. Florian

The first four installments of the Dark Horse Comics (two more to come) are the best thing in SW since ROTJ. This is an unusually high quality work in terms of story, art and printing. The excellent drawings are enhanced by very effective use of the tired, earthy browns, blues and yellows. Han and Leia could be drawn better (a bit more facial resemblance would be pleasant) but the backgrounds, machinery and movements more than make up for it. While the Zahn books are a mere episode, the comics are dealing with the living tissue of SW: the fight between Dark and Light. The creators of the comics got permission from Lucas to resurrect the Emperor (interestingly, permission to bring back Vader or Kenobi was denied). As of the fourth issue of the comics, Luke is trying to study the Dark Side from the inside, and both Leia and Han are in the hands of the Emperor, who is about to be reborn young. This is no kid stuff. There is no comforting assurance that the only way to conquer the Dark is from within—if there is a way at all. Seeing Luke without his right hand again, or learning that Artoo had his programs erased, was a shock equal to finding Han still in carbon freeze at the beginning of ROTJ. Even if Lucas would never make any more SW movies, the Dark Horse Comics could give a serious lift to the fandom by refreshing our deeper feelings, the mixture of awe, terror and exultation we all felt when we first saw our heroes fight the Dark. The comics are an absolute must read for any fan, especially for those who write or draw SW. The initial prints are sold out, but as far as I know, Dark Horse accepts orders and would send all six comics at once in October or later.

EDITOR'S DESK

SE'S 9TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Hello and welcome to SE's 9th anniversary issue! Can you believe that it was in September, 1983, that the first issue of SE rolled off the office copier and into your hands? I thought it would be fun to look back to that first issue and see who was around and what they were talking about, so I dug down into my zine box and brought all those dusty copies to light. Even I was surprised by what I found in those old issues, so let's step back nine years to SOUTHERN ENCLAVE #1:

The first issue was 28 pages of non-reduced type. Besides the opening editorial by yours truly, it contained a review by Christine Jeffords of LANDO CALRISSIAN AND THE MINDHARP OF SHARU by L. Neil Smith. There was a word search puzzle by Lynda Vandiver and art by Danaline Bryant and Ye Olde Ed.

LoCers in that first issue were Christine Jeffords, Bev Clark, Barbara Tennison, Bev Lorenstein, Tim Blaes, Sally Syrjala, Martie Benedict, Debbie Gilbert, Chris Callahan, Sherry Magee, Laura Virgil, Susan Matthews, and Cheree Cargill. The number one topic was ROTJ which had premiered less than four months earlier.

Zines listed as currently available in the Mos Eisley Marketplace were ALDERAANI IMPERATIVE, COMBINING FORCES #2, CONFLICTING IMPULSES #1, DETAILS AT 11 (Simon & Simon), FANS OF FORD NEWSLETTER, FAR REALMS 4-5, FLIP OF A COIN #1, GUARDIAN #5, HARRISON FORD FILMOGRAPHY, HARRISON FORD FUN BOOK, IMPERIAL ENTANGLEMENTS, INCIDENT ON ARDNOR (an Australian zine), KESSEL RUN #3, KNIGHT OF SHADOWS, ONE WAY MIRROR (ST novel), ORGANIA, PEGASUS #6, SHOOTING STAR (Mark Hamill zine), SKYWALKER #6, TALES FOR THE TELLING (Raiders), WARPED SPACE #48, WE ARE STAR MET (ST minizine), and WELL OF THE SOULS #2 (Raiders).

Listed in the "coming soon" section were ARCHAEOLOGY 101 #3 (Raiders), A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #1, BEST OF DOCKING BAY, COLLECTED CIRCLE OF FIRE, CONFLICTING IMPULSES #2, FIELD STUDIES #1, GUARDIAN #6, KASTEROBOROUS (Dr. Who), LEGENDS OF LIGHT #2, OUTLAND CHRONICLES #2, SKYWALKER #5 (yes, #6 was out before #5 was!), and WELL OF THE SOULS #4.

Also for sale were Martie Benedict's VHF tapes and a selection of 9,000 star photos by a dealer in California.

By the way, special mention here goes to Tim Blaes who has the singular distinction of having had a LoC in every issue of SE since the very beginning! Congratulations, Tim!

I won't recap every letter in the zine as that would take too long, but I'll try with each future issue of SE to do a recap of what was going on nine years ago. It was a lot of fun for me to go back and read these old issues and remember. But, now, back to 1992...

A. G. Steyn's letter this time will raise a lot of hackles out there, both in support of her words and in repudiation of them. I will not respond except to say that, although she makes her comments under the heading of remarks to Z. P. Florian, they are in fact addressed to me. I am curious, however, how the rest of you out there—particularly zine editors and/or writers (both past and present)—feel about the situation and why. I am not asking for support or defense, so don't interpret this as a begging request. I am simply and honestly curious about how the rest of SW fandom sees this situation. Hey—we haven't had a good, old-fashioned blood-boiling controversy in a long time! Let's hear from all of you out there!

I also want to hear from all out there who has read DARK FORCE RISING and what you think of it. Personally, I enjoyed it a lot more than HEIR TO THE EMPIRE. I thought Zahn had the characters down pretty well now and the story line moved a lot better, although it still seemed to wander off on unrelated tangents. To me, the most interesting part of the book was the scenes set on the Noghri planet. From being thoroughly horrific villians, they became a real, completely alien civilization with their own problems.

Thanks to everyone who expressed their sympathies over our loss of Thor in May. We still miss him, but Wolf is helping fill the gap in our lives. He's now 4 months old and a beautiful dog. I haven't been able to get a decent picture of him yet, though, but will publish one as soon as I do. He is showing

beautiful conformation and coloring, and is also showing definite signs of being incredibly intelligent. In fact, we laugh and say that Thor's spirit seems to have been reincarnated in Wolf's body because he has a lot of the same characteristics and personality quirks Thor did. Now, there's a metaphysical question to ponder. Do the souls of loyal and loving animal friends reincarnate in order to be near their loved ones?

I've been at my new job for three months now and am starting to settle in and feel at home. I was a bit unhappy at first because of miscommunication—I applied there because they advertised the job as a legal word processor and I soon discovered that the job included doing a lot of legal secretary duties. I made peace with myself quite some time ago that I

am a lousy secretary and loathe secretarial duties, but, conversely, I love and enjoy word processing and computer work immensely. I've discovered to my dismay that many people (employers included) don't understand that there is a difference in the two professions. My new boss and I have come to an understanding now, I think, and so I'm doing almost nothing but heavy transcriptions and revision work for the firm...exactly what I wanted to do. It's still not my idea of a perfect job, but it's one I can work at contentedly for an indefinite time to come.

Thanks to all who sent photos from Media-West and other places. I am publishing as many as possible herein. Happy holidays to all and see you next issue!

MediaWest Pix



Kathy Agel, Cheree Cargill, Wanda Lybarger
and Katy Cargill with STAR Awards



Judith Yuenger giving Kathy Agel her STAR Award



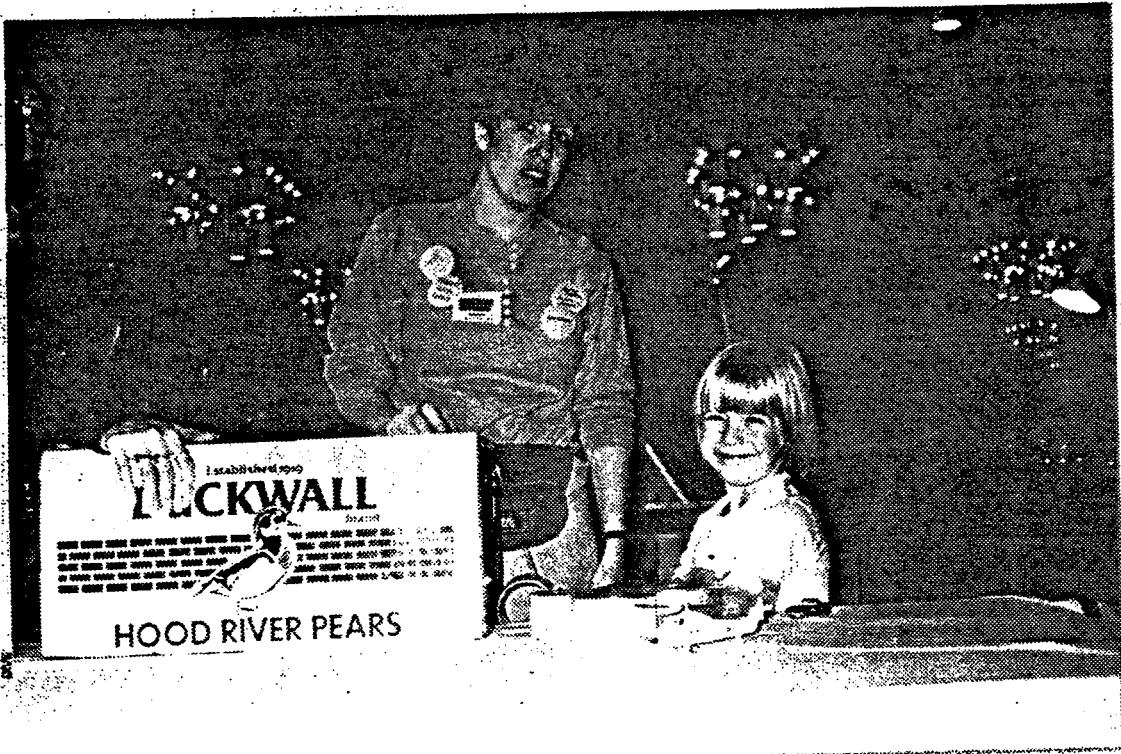
Judith Yuenger and Carolyn Golledge



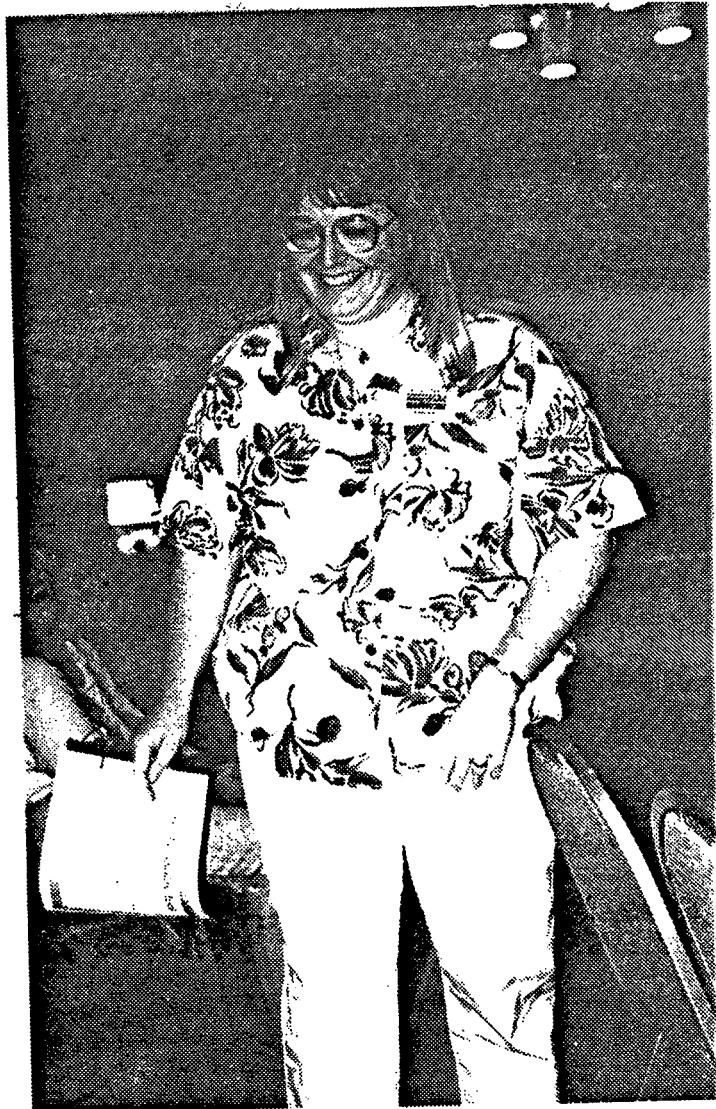
Kathy Agel with her wares



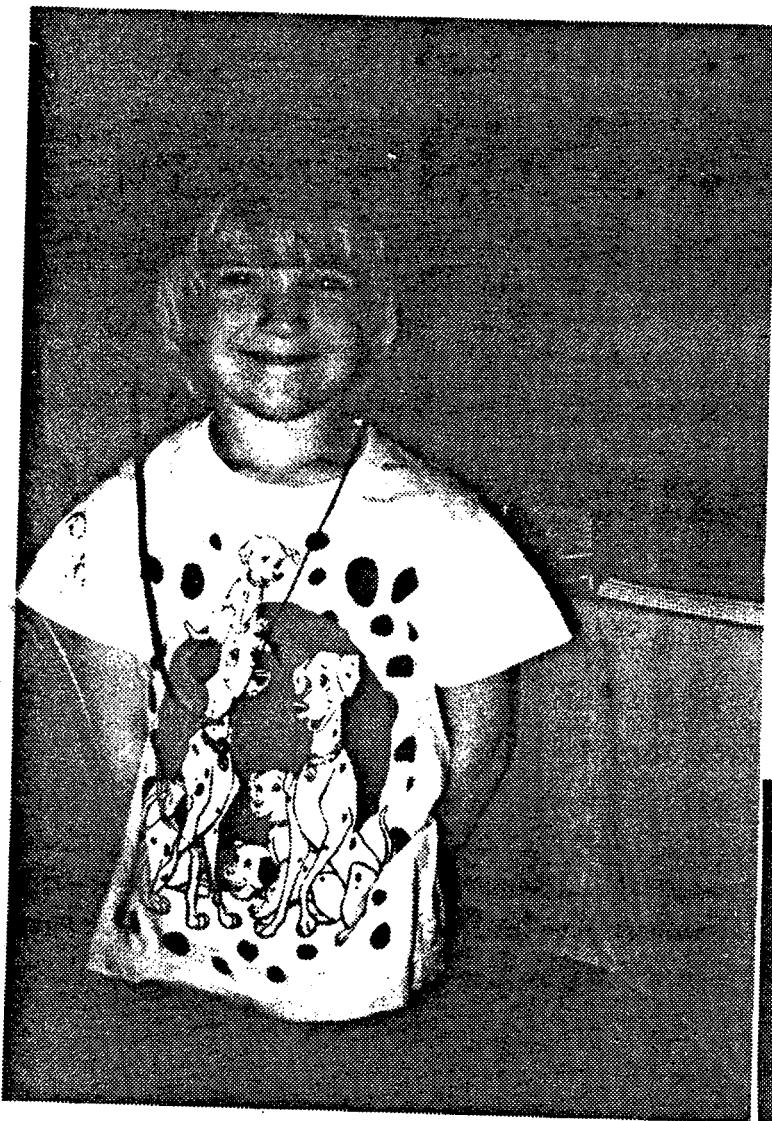
Cheree Cargill



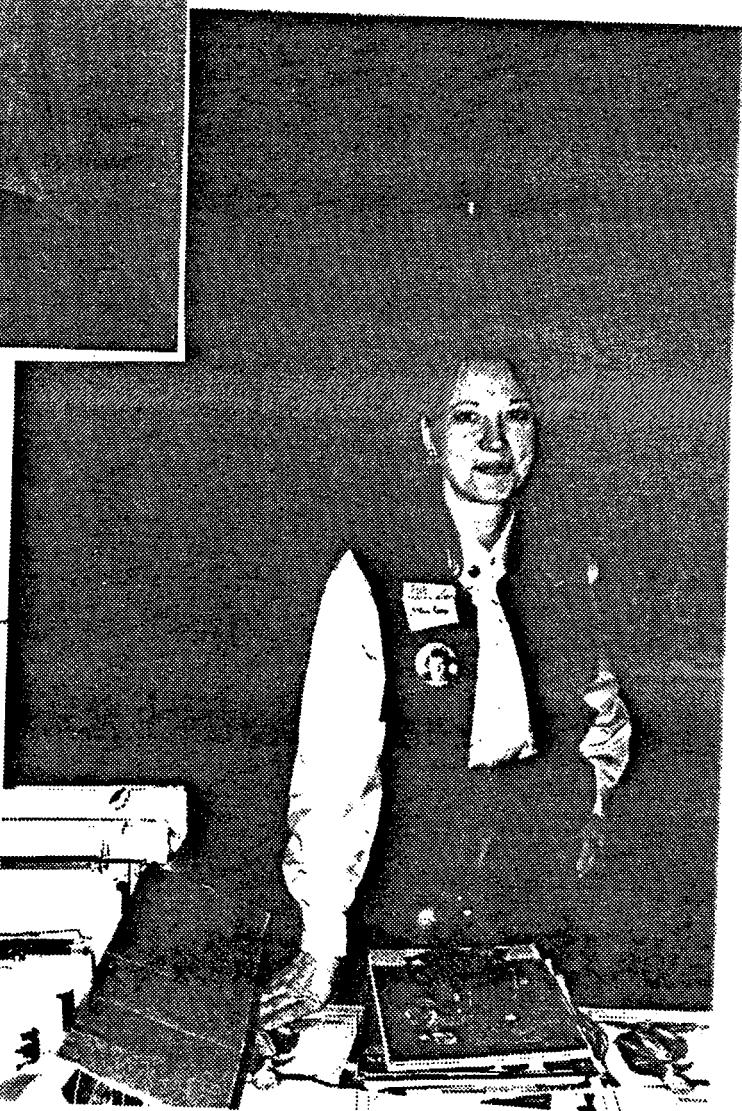
Katy helping Kathy
pack up on Monday



Cheree at STAR Awards



Katy enjoying her first
MediaWest*Con



Barbara Anderson

(Thanks to Kathy Agel for
these pictures)



Judith Yuenger and Ming Wathne

Obi-Wan and the Blue Jawa
(alias Dan and Tina Bentrup)

(photos by Debbie Kittle)





Nora Mayers and Khammakkazzi, an Arabian yearling (also known as the Great and Powerful Oz!). He's the grandson of Khemosabi, a name horse lovers should recognize, says Nora.



A. G. Steyn

BULLETIN BOARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Carrie Fisher on the birth of her daughter Billie Catherine Lourd on July 18, 1992. Dad is CAA agent Bryan Lourd. Debbie Reynolds is reportedly enjoying being a grandmother. [Info from Lisa Cowan]

CLUBS

Forces of the Empire
c/o Pat Grant
2371 N. Aurelius, Apt. 12
Holt, MI 48842

Sons and Daughters of the Force
c/o Carolyn Frodsham
913 S. Grand Avenue #44
San Jacinto, CA 92382

PENPALS WANTED

Gerald Crotty
25 Woodridge
Birchfield, Birmingham 6
B6 - 6LN England

ERRATA

From: Lisa Cowan

"I recently heard from Skywalker Ranch that George Lucas is busy working with writers on the THIRD season episodes for YOUNG INDIANA JONES. Filming for second season shows will begin in late August. Word is that Lucas is happier than he's been for years—with this new Indy TV show project of his, as well as his various educational projects.

"From what I gather, Lucas plans to continue

with YOUNG INDY as long as he can, even if ABC cancels the show. There is always syndication and cable and home video. Lucasfilm's other TV show, MANIAC MANSION, is still doing well on the Family Channel. No word at all on any future STAR WARS movies: no script writing, no actor or director casting, no 'secret' ILM work, no location scouting, nothing. There are lots more STAR WARS novels and books and comics planned. The reason we are seeing all this SW literature is simple—it SELLS well, very well at the moment."

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Editor and Publisher:

Cheree T. Cargill
457 Meadowhill Drive
Garland, TX 75043

Subscription Price: \$7.00 single issue, \$21.00 for 3 issues or \$28.00 for a year. Please specify issue starting number. Back issues available for \$2.00 each. Back issues available: 16-18, 21, 23-25, 28-32. All others are sold out.

Deadline for #34 -- December 1, 1992

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SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED LATER THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS AFTER DEADLINE WILL NOT BE PRINTED IN THIS ISSUE!

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Thanks to Toni DiMaris, Maggie Nowakowska, Debbie Kittle, Tim Blaes, Carolyn Colledge and all the others who have sent clippings. We'll try to get most of them in!

Lucas Would Like 10 Clones

"If there were a fantasy world," producer-director George Lucas tells ABC's "Good Morning America" tomorrow, "there would be ten of me and I'd be doing all the things I want to do all the time." One of those things is a TV series based on his "Star Wars" trilogy, as he has with "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles" kicking off tomorrow on ABC (8 p.m.). Lucas says he knows stories he wants on the new "Star Wars," but "it's a matter of having the time to do them." / III

NEW YORK NEWSDAY, TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1992

WALDEN BOOKS[®]

HAILING FREQUENCIESTM

News and reviews from the worlds of Science Fiction and Fantasy.

The Star Wars Saga Continues... An Interview With Timothy Zahn

It may be symbolic that after spending nearly his entire life in Illinois, Timothy Zahn is finally picking up roots and moving to the Oregon coast. Not so coincidentally, his writing career has gone into high gear recently, with the publication of the first two of his novels set in the universe of *Star Wars*.

Zahn began selling SF stories to *Analog* magazine while a grad student in physics at the University of Illinois. When his thesis advisor died, he realized he was having so much fun writing, he wanted to turn it to full time. At first, Zahn made a reputation for himself in hard SF, with the *Cobra* series of military SF novels. In 1984, he won a Hugo for his novella "Cascade Point."

Zahn has always been as interested in characters as in hardware—Theodore Sturgeon was an early influence. So it seemed appropriate that he was the author chosen to create a new series of "Star Wars" novels, featuring some of the best-known characters in all of SF.

Dark Force Rising, the sequel to *Heir to the Empire*, is the second of Zahn's three-book *Star Wars* set. We began by asking the author to place the books in the context of the entire *Star Wars* saga.

TZ: The books start five years after the end of *Return of the Jedi*, and deal with a new rise in imperial power. The Empire has a new leader, Grand Admiral Thrawn, at the beginning of *Heir to the Empire*. He had been on a mission to the outer rim of the system, and now he has returned to take command of the Imperial Fleet. The Grand Admiral has a master plan for destroying what he still calls the Republic's "Rebellion."

Thrawn is a brilliant tactician who is able to manipulate his opponents by reading them very carefully and gaining an understanding of them, then he either out-thinks them or foresees their plans. He also has two bits of information he has figured out how to use to the Empire's advantage. The first is revealed in Book One, the second at the end of Book Two. How they all fit together is revealed in Book Three.

HF: Part of the fun is that Thrawn meets up with another dark Jedi, a sort of replacement for Darth Vader.

continued on page 3



People

March 9, 1992
Vol. 37, No. 9

TWO FOR THE AISLE

It's official. Peter (*thirty-something*) Horton and his girlfriend of nearly two years, model Jean Pelton, have become engaged. No wedding date has been set. . . . Not even mentioning marriage are parents-to-be Carrie Fisher and Bryan Lourd, an agent at Creative Artists Agency who is her steady beau. They are expecting their first baby later this summer, and we're hearing that Fisher knows it will be a girl. Surrender the pink, indeed.

continued from page 1

TZ: Right. This new dark Jedi is actually a clone of the old Jedi Master Jorus C'baoth. He's insane, and being used by Grand Admiral Thrawn to help enhance the fighting capabilities of his troops.

The problem Thrawn comes up against is that C'baoth has become better at using his power because of all the work he has been doing for Thrawn. C'baoth isn't less insane, but he's more powerful and is able to control the Force. Therefore, he is becoming a serious threat to the Grand Admiral. Even while they're working together, Thrawn and C'baoth will be, in some sense, at odds with each other. What keeps the situation from erupting into any kind of overt conflict is the fact that they need each other. Yet they both think, "once I don't need him anymore, I'll get rid of him."

HF: This is a project half the membership of SFWA [Science Fiction Writers of America] probably wanted to sink their teeth into. How were you chosen?

TZ: Well, I understand that Lou Aronica, the publisher of Bantam Spectra, contacted Lucasfilm about three years ago to suggest a new "Star Wars" book. He didn't hear back from them for about a year. Then they said, "Yes, this sounds interesting; let's talk." Aronica and his editors assembled a list of potential writers and I guess I was the first one they asked. I took the job.

HF: Did Lucasfilm have suggestions about the storyline?

TZ: Mostly everybody gave me a free hand. The rules were that I could start three to five years after *Return of the Jedi* and use any character who had not been killed off in the movies. Of

course, they wanted veto power over anything I did, but aside from that, they just let me go.

It took about five months for Lucas Art and Bantam to work out the fine details of their contract and until they had done that, Lucas Art didn't want to look at my outline. So during that time, I sent things to my editor, Betsy Mitchell, and we fine-tuned the series. We had a lot of it down pat by the time the contract was ready.

TZ: Well, I got the style sheets and outlines for the three movies from Lucasfilm, which helped on spelling and things of that sort. I was a couple of months into writing when they suddenly decided they wanted me to coordinate with the West End Games role-playing materials, too. They filled in a bunch of the gaps that I hadn't gotten around to filling in. They created a whole bunch of background material—different types of ships, land vehicles, and alien creatures—so I didn't have

"What is good use of the Force and what is bad use?"

The first book was pretty well organized before I started writing. We added a couple of scenes and made some major revisions to the end of it before it went to Lucas Art. They looked at the outline and told me a couple of things I couldn't do. They cut out my favorite character. And originally, Jorus C'baoth was going to be a clone of Obi-wan Kenobi, but they said no. They didn't want me to refer in detail to the clone wars which took place before the movies began. I guess by that time Lucas had decided he was going to go back and make the prequel movies, and they didn't want me treading on his turf.

But I got my way on most of it and conceded on the things they simply did not want me to do. So, aside from relatively minor things, I had pretty much of a free hand. I was very grateful for that, because I had ideas about what I wanted to do. I wanted to tie the book in as part of the grand scheme of the *Star Wars* universe.

HF: What kind of research did you do?

to reinvent the wheel each time. As far as the movies themselves, I have, of course, seen all three of them several times. One thing my wife and I discovered when our son was about two or three was that if he had seen a movie enough times, we could record the whole thing on audiotape and play it on the car stereo during long trips. He could visualize all of the action and be happy as a clam sitting in the backseat of the car. So, while I have seen all the *Star Wars* movies "x" times each, I have heard them "x plus 10" times each. I have a lot of the little details, as well as the way the characters speak, what they say, and how they interact with each other, down pat—simply from the repetition. I didn't really have to do too much in the way of research—I had done it already.

HF: How does working in the *Star Wars* universe compare to something where you start from scratch?

TZ: Well, it has its tradeoffs. I don't have a free hand with many of the major characters, for example, Luke and Leia. But as

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continued from page 3

far as not being able to invent my own hardware and such, the *Star Wars* universe was thought out well enough, and is extensive and internally consistent enough, that I've had no problems with that. It's fun to work with.

There are some movies I've seen where I would hate to write a book in that universe because the whole thing just doesn't make any sense. There have been numerous science fiction books and movies about swordsmen fighting against guns or lasers. It doesn't make any sense to pit a short-range weapon against a long-range one until you add in the Jedi ability to know where the shot is coming from.

HF: You just alluded to the Jedi abilities, which create a problem

that often arises when there is a fantasy hero with supernatural powers. How does one create suspense with a character who can work miracles?

TZ: Yes.. I think that was part of the reason Luke mostly fought Vader in the movies. That was the easiest way to avoid the Superman effect. In fact, I know that after *Heir to the Empire* came out, there was speculation on the computer nets that I'd invented the ysalamiri solely to take away Jedi powers because I couldn't figure out how to write for the superpowerful Jedi. That is not the case. The ysalamiri are a very important part of Thrawn's master plan.

Part of the way I get around the superpower problem is that Luke is not invincible. He does

not have superspeed and if he has enough people shooting at him, he will be overwhelmed, despite his Jedi powers. Another thing I tried for in *Heir to the Empire* was to have Luke question what is the right and wrong use of the Force.

HF: That was the ethical dilemma built into the whole dark side/light side of the Force from the very beginning, in the movies.

TZ: What is good use of the Force and what is bad use? Does the end justify the means? Apparently not. There are all these ethical questions that are more subtle than just black and white. There's a lot of gray shading and no obvious line between good & evil. So that's going to limit what Luke can do as well. ■

Dallas Morning News 9-3-92

THE QUIGMANS By Buddy Hickerson



"Reportedly miffed that he can't play his role with a Texas accent, Ross Perot has walked out on 'Star Wars: The Return of Yoda.'"

Dallas Morning News

FIRE UP A STOGIE: Director Steven Spielberg and actress Kate Capshaw are parents again. Ms. Capshaw gave birth Tuesday to Sawyer Spielberg, a boy weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces. Mr. Spielberg and Ms. Capshaw, who married last year, have a 21-month-old daughter and a 3-year-old adopted son. Mr. Spielberg has a 6-year-old son from his marriage to actress Amy Irving. Ms. Capshaw has a 15-year-old daughter from her marriage to Bob Capshaw.

3-11-92

Dallas Morning News 6-5-92

MAKING HIS MARK: Harrison Ford sank his footprints and handprints into the forecourt of the Hollywood Mann Chinese Theater just before the premiere of his movie *Patriot Games*. Mr. Ford's square will be near the concrete squares for producers George Lucas and Steven Spielberg, who made the *Indiana Jones* trilogy in which he starred. *Patriot Games*, an action-thriller adapted from Tom Clancy's best-selling novel, premiered Wednesday.



Harrison Ford
'ancy's best-selling novel, premiered Wednesday.

Pondering the Riddle of Creativity

By DANIEL GOLEMAN

THERE IS SOMETHING BEAZZLING ABOUT the creative act: always a surprise, it shocks with its unimaginable perfection, its strange eloquence, its balance between the fresh and the familiar. Perhaps it's because we want to make such magic ourselves that we are so intrigued by how others do it. And so we turn to psychology to unravel the mysteries of creativity.

But despite a long fascination with the creative mind, psychology has been singularly uncreative in explaining it. There is, for example, the popular if romanticized view that takes van Gogh as its prototype of the creative

Daniel Goleman is the co-author, with Paul Kaufman and Michael Ray, of "The Creative Spirit," the companion volume to the four-part PBS series of the same name beginning April 2.

Psychologists are taking a new approach to the secrets of the imagination: studying the moment of inspiration.

genius: an emotional cripple who, if cured of his neurosis, would lose his talents. That theory, with roots as ancient as Aristotle, has gone out the window with findings that show creativity flourishing with emotional maturity (though a little manic depression in the family may not hurt, especially for writers).

Other theories try to reduce the creative act to elementary abilities. One such theory was "divergence," a knack measured by how many novel ideas one could come up with for using such items as a junked car. Such

theories merely trivialize the topic.

In recent years these piecemeal approaches have been rejected by a new generation of psychologists who seek more satisfying understanding of the creative spirit, whether it is embodied in the young artist starting in the proverbial garret or a titan like Martha Graham, innovating into her 90's.

Three major new theories of creativity nest inside one another like Russian dolls. One focuses on the role of the sheer pleasures of creation during the inspired moment. A second tracks the forces at work in the lives of creative geniuses like Eliot and Picasso, Einstein and Gandhi, people who have risen beyond the top of their form to recreate the form itself. A third steps back to assess the social forces that give rise to a renaissance.

These theories signify a sweeping shift in the study of the imagination. Rather than seeing creative ability as something akin to intelligence, something like a creative I.Q., psychologists are examining the creative moment

Continued on Page 22



20th Century Fox ("Star Wars"); Jim Wilson/The New York Times (Lucas)

George Lucas' 1977 film "Star Wars": the film maker at Skywalker Ranch—Keeping the mainstream at a distance.

3/22/92

The Riddle of the Imagination: What Makes Creators Create

Itself. Glimpses of the lives and work of three creative artists — the realistic painter Gregory Gillespie, the film maker George Lucas and the Polish playwright Janusz Glowacki — illuminate these theories.

Gregory Gillespie

The Thrill Of the Moment

Consider the artist Gregory Gillespie in his studio in a meadow near Amherst, Mass., pondering whether to add images of himself and his daughter, Julian, to a life-size super-realistic nude portrait of his wife, Peggy, sitting on a kitchen stool. At times like this, when he contemplates the intricacies of composition or is rapt, putting brush to canvas, Mr. Gillespie says he feels "super-alert." Time dissolves, and a day passes like an hour.

That elastic sense of time — vanishing into a kind of hyperspeed or crystallizing into stop-frame slow motion — is a mark of what psychologists call the "flow" state, an altered awareness found in people performing at their peak. First discovered in studies in which people from rock climbers to chess masters described moments when they had outdone themselves, flow is now being charted

as the thrill that motivates artists to keep at it year after year.

Mr. Gillespie's paintings are now in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum and the Hirshhorn. But when he began he was willing to live in near-poverty rather than work a full-time job so he would have time to paint. "I loved it," says the artist, who is 55. "I felt painting was the greatest job I could have, even though I wasn't making a cent from it."

Such early disregard for financial reward is a hallmark of nascent artists who later have successful ca-

reers, according to Prof. Mike Csikzentmihalyi, a University of Chicago psychologist who has led the research on flow and creativity. He and his colleagues studied 200 artists, first in art school, and then 18 years later. Those who had most savored the joy of painting itself, valuing the process more than the product, stayed with it; from their ranks eventually emerged the most successful. But those who had been spurred by fantasies of fame and wealth had largely disappeared from the art world soon after graduation.

"Painters must want to paint

above all else," says Professor Csikzentmihalyi. "If the artist in front of the canvas begins to wonder how much he will sell it for, or what the critics will think of it, he won't be able to pursue original avenues. Creative achievements depend on single-minded immersion."

Flow hooks artists on their medium in the first place, but it also drives them to push beyond their limits, to innovate and experiment. The Chicago researchers find that flow occurs when a person's skills are in exquisite balance with the challenges presented. If the challenge is too easy, there is boredom; if it's too taxing, anxiety results.

using tight, restricted brushstrokes to depict the artist at 33. The portrait shows a man who seems to be glowering with intensity at the struggle to master his medium. "I was just learning how to make it look realistic," Mr. Gillespie recalls.

By 1975 a self-portrait is so vividly realistic that at first glance it could be taken for a photograph. But soon after mastering that hyper-realistic technique, Mr. Gillespie moved on to a signature style, a visual equivalent to magical surrealism in which murky Rorschach-like subworlds lurk in the corners and shadows, populated by a mix of fetuses, torsos, genitalia and intestines: the tension between id and ego made visible.

Recently, Mr. Gillespie has moved on again. "I lost interest in being able to render microscopic detail," he said. "What challenges me now about painting a figure is using a looser technique — bigger brushes, broader strokes, painting more quickly."

He also uses life-size cutouts of painted objects, trying them out in several of the many paintings he works on at once. He welcomes visitors' suggestions about what elements to put where. Says Mr. Gillespie: "I'm always on the lookout for something new to try. It keeps it fresh for me."

George Lucas

Challenges Over a Lifetime

A novice musician feels "in flow" performing a well-rehearsed repertory; a master musician needs the most technically challenging pieces to get in flow; the world-class musician ups the ante by interpreting those most challenging pieces.

The signs of such an evolution are evident in the retrospective survey of Mr. Gillespie's self-portraits from 1969 to 1991, now at the Forum Gallery on 37th Street in Manhattan. The earliest work is technically primitive,

The lifelong trajectory of creative geniuses, fueled by the pursuit of flow, is the focus of the second new theory. That theory encompasses the psychological and social forces at work in such a life, and such phenomena as the so-called 10-year rule, the natural rhythm at which artists seem to have breakthroughs.

The 10-year rule has emerged from a major study by Howard Gardner, a psychologist at Harvard University. Professor Gardner examined the lives of a handful of virtuosos, each of whose work has transformed its field. For example: T. S. Eliot, who graduated from Harvard in 1910, had completed a draft of "The Waste Land"

by 1921. Picasso, who left art school to live as a painter in Barcelona at 17, painted "Les Desmoiselles d'Avignon" at 26. Stravinsky, who began his apprenticeship as a composer with Rimsky-Korsakov in 1902, stunned the musical world with his score for "The Rites of Spring" just a decade later.

In the realm of American movie

making, George Lucas entered film school in 1964 at the age of 20, finished his breakthrough movie "American Graffiti" just eight years later and turned to work on the "Star Wars" trilogy soon after that. Now 47, he will be given the Irving Thalberg award during the Academy Award presentations on March 30, in recognition of his creative innovations in film.

Typically high-level creators have come from geographical regions removed from the centers of power, and from families that valued discipline and achievement. "There's something to be said for being a big fish in a little pond when you're young," says Professor Gardner. "It gives you a certain feeling of invulnerability" that, along with self-discipline, shields an artist from the rebuffs that, predictably, assail every revolutionary creation.

Mr. Lucas, who grew up the son of a businessman in rural Modesto, Calif., stresses the importance of perseverance in his own success. "Persistence and tenacity are the reasons I've come this far," he said. "In film, especially when you are starting out, everyone says, no, you can't possibly do it that way."

That happened when Mr. Lucas was seeking financing for "American Graffiti." "No one would touch it; it took two years of pounding on doors," said Mr. Lucas. "For one thing, I was telling four separate stories simultaneously, intercutting them into a single whole. Now it's a standard style, especially on TV shows. Then it was an experiment in editing."

The second objection Mr. Lucas faced was to the film's soundtrack. "It was a musical montage. I structured each scene around a song. I took an operatic format and converted it to the modern cinematic medium. I was told it would be too disturbing, that people wouldn't sit still through 110 minutes of music."

But Mr. Lucas persevered, with the encouragement of close friends. That, too, Professor Gardner finds, is a common element in the careers of the highly creative: they rapidly bond with a set others who are exploring new terrain within their field, and who offer one another crucial support, exchanging ideas and boosting morale. For Mr. Lucas, the band included his mentor, Francis Ford Coppola, Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese and Brian De Palma, all starting out as young film makers.

Until then, Mr. Lucas recalls, the film industry had been largely closed to those who were not shaped by the culture of the studios. Such marginality is another theme in the lives of the highly creative, Professor Gardner finds, even after their breakthrough has won them acceptance and influence. Continuing to seek a marginal status helps the creator maintain a crucial freshness. "Whenever they risked becoming members of the establishment in their field, they would again shift course," says Professor Gardner.

Mr. Lucas has maintained that distance by making Marin County his base of operations. "Once I saw that films could be made anywhere, that you didn't need giant sound stages and big studios, I saw no reason to move back to Los Angeles," said Mr. Lucas. "I felt film making should be decentralized, and that Hollywood was too insulated. It was a 60's philosophy."

Professor Gardner finds another pattern: a second breakthrough, which, he says, is "also noteworthy, but less dramatic — a kind of coming home that places the person's work in a broader frame, reconciling it with basic values."

To be sure, Mr. Lucas has made several cinematic breakthroughs, not least his "Star Wars" trilogy, in which he created a modern myth. But his biggest recent artistic gamble is his new ABC series, "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles" (Wednesday nights at 9). "I'm taking PBS-style 'Masterpiece Theater' and moving it to network TV," said Mr. Lucas. The

series tracks the early years of Mr. Lucas's film hero Indiana Jones, the swashbuckling archeologist. In the TV series, he says, "The creative challenge is to tell interesting stories that introduce people to historical figures and deal with larger issues like comparative religion and ecology."

Despite the skepticism of many critics, the first episode placed in the top 10 shows for the week. But whether Mr. Lucas has beaten conventional wisdom with this gamble is not yet clear. Mr. Lucas is aware that he is again battling the mainstream. "TV is a tabloid medium of sorts, wanting the current hot issues rather than the perennial ones," he said. "But you have to do what your muses tell you."

Entertainment

Meryl Streep wowed mom-to-be Carrie Fisher with a special gift at her baby shower: She burst into song and serenaded Carrie and other celeb guests for a full HOUR! Meryl warbled lullabies, pop tunes and even a rousing country 'n' western medley.

The USA Network announced yesterday that this fall it will launch the Sci-Fi Channel, a 24-hour cable network featuring science fiction, fantasy and classic horror programming . . .

The channel will be launched with a prime-time presentation of "Star Wars." USA said yesterday "the network will be programmed by daypart and will include newly developed original movies and series, popular feature-length motion pictures such as 'Star Trek: The Movie' (and its sequels), animated programs, documentaries, specials and a mix of classic and current popular series including all 1,225 episodes of 'Dark Shadows' and the popular British series, 'Dr. Who' . . .

Although yesterday was the deadline, talks were continuing between ABC Entertainment and series creator George Lucas over the future on the network of his "Young Indiana Jones Chronicles." An announcement could be made today . . .

One thing fer shure, Indy won't return to ABC on Tuesday nights, anyway. The network has said it wants the Chronicles to air at 8 should they return next fall. But there's no room on Tuesdays . . .

4/21/92

From here to infinity on Sci-Fi TV

By Scott Williams
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

Dr. Who, Luke Skywalker and Capt. James T. Kirk will roam the stars on the Sci-Fi Channel, a 24-hour cable TV service starting this fall and devoted to science fiction, horror and fantasy.

The Sci-Fi Channel will offer a mix of movies, "classic" TV series and animation aimed at 12- to 34-year-olds as well as hard-core fans of other ages, says Kay Koplovitz, president of cable's USA Network.

"I hope we will be able to meet the expectations of these fans and their constituencies," she says.

USA Network, a basic cable service in 58 million households nationwide, expects the new channel to have 10 million households in more than 100 affiliate systems for its fall start.

The Sci-Fi Channel will make its debut with a prime-time presentation of "Star Wars," the second-highest grossing film in movie history. It also will feature the "Star Trek" movies, all 1,225 episodes of "Dark Shadows" and the British series "Dr. Who."

The channel began in 1989 in Boca Raton, Fla., under lawyer Mitchell Ruben and partner Laurie S. Silver, who are vice chairmen under their new corporate parent.

The team had signed 60 percent

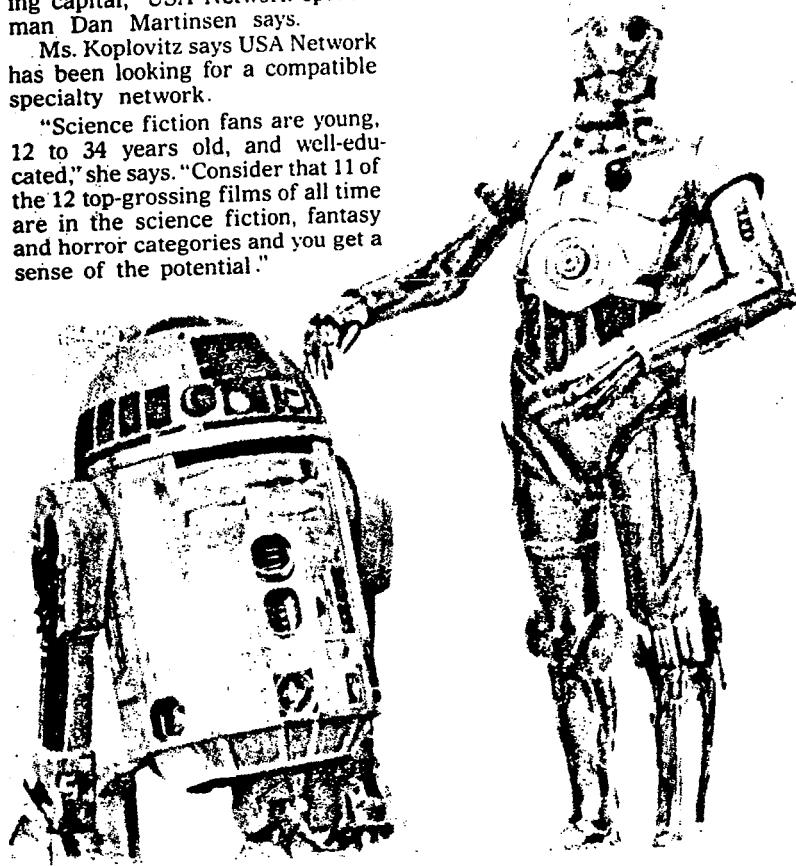
of the top 100 cable system companies and announced an expected launch date in late 1990, but their independent venture never took off.

"It's just that they didn't have the resources available to them, meaning capital," USA Network spokesman Dan Martinsen says.

Ms. Koplovitz says USA Network has been looking for a compatible specialty network.

"Science fiction fans are young, 12 to 34 years old, and well-educated," she says. "Consider that 11 of the 12 top-grossing films of all time are in the science fiction, fantasy and horror categories and you get a sense of the potential."

R2-D2 and C-3PO will be showing up on the Sci-Fi Channel.



NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY



GRIZZELLO

UH.. WHAT'S WITH
GUNTHER, MRS. G.?

OH, HE JUST FOUND OUT DAN QUAYLE
WAS PUT IN CHARGE
OF THE SPACE
PROGRAM...

By Bill Schorr



DMN 5-8-92

Q I heard there was going to be another *Indiana Jones* movie. Please provide details. Will Harrison Ford return to the role? — J.E.

A Perhaps you're confusing the big- and small-screen *Indys*. ABC's *Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* is due back in the fall — but there are no plans for more feature films starring the intrepid hero. Indeed, Harrison Ford has remarked that he feels the movie series ended at the right time.

OUR IDEALS: A macho good guy, Harrison Ford as Indiana Jones, and a steel magnolia, Vivien Leigh in *Gone With the Wind*, were tops among filmgoers who were asked which movie characters they most want to be. Women ages 18 to 24 ranked Linda Hamilton's muscled, gun-toting Sarah Connor in *Terminator 2* as their favorite. Men of that age group decided on the Terminator himself, Arnold Schwarzenegger. The survey of 1,000 people released Thursday was conducted for MasterCard.



Harrison Ford

DALLAS MORNING NEWS 6-11-92

BRIDGE

By Alfred Sheinwold and Frank Stewart

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Before the battle on Endor, the combatants relaxed at bridge. (The game is known in galaxies throughout time and space.) Against Darth Vader's 3NT, Luke Skywalker led a spade. Vader took the first trick and slowly ran his seven clubs.

"You do well, my friend," Vader's partner cackled.

"The dark side of the Force impels me to run a long suit," came Vader's chilling voice. "I like to see defenders sweat over their discards."

It was soon obvious that South would take nine tricks if he held the king of spades or ace of diamonds. Luke therefore saved two spades, two diamonds and the ace of hearts. When Vader eventually led a heart, the defenders took five easy tricks.

"I'm surprised you didn't lead a low heart at Trick Two," Luke told Vader. "Since I didn't know about your clubs, it would've been hard for me to take the ace to continue spades."

"That play might cost extra undertricks," Vader intoned.

True, but it's the best way to steal the game.

North dealer

North-South vulnerable

NORTH

♦ 9 5 2
♥ Q 10 4
♦ J 9 8 4 2
♣ 8 3

WEST

♦ J 8 7 4 3
♥ A 6 2
♦ K 10 5
♣ 10 2

EAST

♦ K Q 10
♥ J 9 8 7 3
♦ A 7 6
♣ 7 6

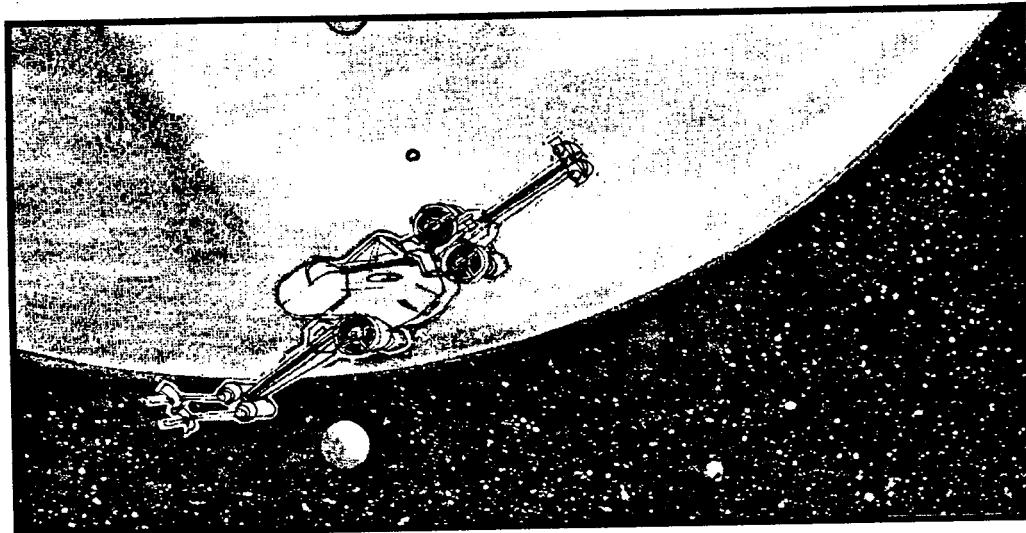
SOUTH

♦ A 6
♥ K 5
♦ Q 3
♣ A K Q J 9 5 4

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead — ♦ 4

IMPERIUM III



Wanted:

Your original Star Wars stories, vignettes, articles, poetry, filks, artwork etc. for Imperium III, due out for MediaWest*Con 13. Deadline for submissions is 1 April 1993.

Contributors so far include Pat Grant (a.k.a. Ye Editor), L. Hyde, ZP Florian, James Casselbury, Kirk Taskila and Diane Duane.
We would be honored if you would join us!

Submission Guidelines

If you don't have a computer: Please use a typewriter and double-space your copy.

Computers: Macintosh – please use a word-processing program (MS Word, TeachText, etc.) rather than DTP. Formatting: double-spaced, flush left, one tab at beginning of each paragraph. Send hard copy with your disk. **Other systems:** save as ascii (text) to a 3½" disk and send hard copy. If you can only use 5¼" disks, then send hard copy only. Don't format anything, i.e. no 'smart' quotes, italics, bold or underlining.

If you have a modem: send to CIS 70274,3160 (70274.3160@compuserve.com for internet), or AOL: ArwenR, or call (212) 877-1086 to arrange a good time to mail.

Artwork: Do not send original artwork! Send two camera ready copies — photostats would be best. Keep in mind that no matter the original size, the final version will fit on 8½" x 11" paper. Call if you have any questions.

Send submissions to:

Arwen Rosenbaum
605 West End Avenue
New York NY 10024-1608

Please send a SASE along with your work so I can let you know it arrived safely.

If you send anything larger than a regular envelope (my mailbox is smaller than a roach motel), send it to me at my office address:

Dekker Babian
39 West 14th Street, Studio 204
New York NY 10011-7489

1992 FAN QUALITY AWARD WINNERS

BLAKE'S 7

Artist - Suzan Lovett ("Raising Hell" #4, "Avon Calling" #2, "Fruit of the Month Club")
Cartoon - "The FSA Cadet Blues" (Leigh Moto'oka, "Zen & the Art of Rebellion")
Editor (Tie) - Jean Graham ("Gambit" #7, "The Revel Times") and Ann Wortham ("Southern Comfort" #6.5, "Southern Seven" #6)
Filk - "Sandbox Built for Two" (Angela Reese, "On the Wing" #6)
Letterzine/Newsletter (Tie) - "Horizon Newsletter" (Diane Geis) and "The Neutral Arbiter" (Sherri Fillingham & Pat Nussman)
Poem - "Evensong: Avon" (Jacqueline Taero, "Threads Through Infinity")
Short Story/Vignette (Tie) - "It's All Done By Magic" (Linda Knights, "Southern Seven" #6) and "Overboard" (Sheila Paulson, "Gambit" #7)
Zine - "Gambit" #7 (Jean Graham)

DOCTOR WHO

Short Story/Vignette - "Knight, Squire & Harold" (Sharon Reddy, "Knight Progenitor")

EQUALIZER

Artist - Jeanne McClure ("Invictus")
Short Story/Vignette - "Lullaby" (McClure & Smith, "Invictus")

MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E.

Artist - Suzan Lovett ("Peristroika")
Short Story/Vignette - "The Lion of Ngambo Affair" (C.W. Walker, "Kuryakin Files" #10)
Zine - "Peristroika" (Elizabeth Urich)

MIAMI VICE

Artist - Koz ("Miami Spice")
Letterzine/Newsletter - "D J Today" (Mary Platt)
Non-Fiction - "It's Here and in High Gear" (Mary Platt, "D J Today")
Novel/Novella - "Carry On Wayward Son" (Stancio Del Norte)
Short Story/Vignette - "The Last Sound Love Makes" (Flamingo, "Miami Spice" #2)
Zine - "Crockett Dial" (Karen Howard)

MULTI-FANDOM

Artist - Charlie Nash ("Celestial Toybox" #7)
Letterzine/Newsletter - "Comlink" (Allyson Dyer)
Short Story/Vignette - "Disolution" (Sharon Reddy, "Knight Progenitor")
Zine - "Remote Control" (Kathryn Agel)

PROFESSIONALS

Artist - Suzan Lovett ("Chalk & Cheese" #9)
Editor - Mystery Frank ("Chalk & Cheese")
Letterzine/Newsletter - "Cold Fish & Stale Chips" (Kate Nuernberg)
Novel/Novella - "Professional Dreamer" (Pamela Rose)
Short Story/Vignette - "Legacy of Temptation" (Ellis Ward, "Other Times & Places")
Zine - "...As Two Three Pound Notes" (Caroline Carbis)

QUANTUM LEAP

Artist - Kate Nuernberg ("Play It Again", Green Eggs & Ham", "Out of the Frying Pan")
Editor - Kate Nuernberg ("Play It Again")
Letterzine/Newsletter - "Quantum Quarterly" #5 (Jim Rondeau)
Novel/Novella - "Best of Two Worlds" (Sandy Hall & Amy Miller)
Poem - "Pulitzer Prize for Photography, 1970" (Jane Mailander, "Oh Boy" #2)
Short Story/Vignette - "Imagine" (Kate Nuernberg, "Play It Again")
Zine - "Play It Again" (Kate Nuernberg)

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS

Zine - "The Vampire Janine" (Jeff Morris)

ROBIN OF SHERWOOD

Zine - "Albion" #5 (H.L. Avry & Laura Chevening-Blunk)

STAR TREK

Artist - Jean Kluge ("Pulse of the Machine")

Editor - Peg Kennedy ("Pirates of Avalon")

Letterzine/Newsletter - "Data Entries" #13/14 (Jim & Melody Rondeau)

Novel/Novella - "Pirates of Avalon" (Terre Duece Wellons)

Poem - "Borg" (Daphne Van Owens, "Involution")

Short Story/Vignette - "The Vulcan's Prophecy" (Halsey Taylor, "Remote Control")

Zine - "Eridani" #12 (Randall Landers)

STAR WARS

Artist - Wanda Lybarger ("Bright Center of the Universe")

Letterzine/Newsletter - "Southern Enclave" (Cheree Cargill)

Short Story/Vignette - "The Bequest" (Pat Nussman, "Remote Control")

STARMAN

Artist - Ann Larimer ("1991 Spotlight Starman Calendar")

Editor (Tie) - Candi Farmer ("The Robert Hays International Newsletter-Special Edition", "TRHIFC Celebrates Starman", "1991 Catalogue of Starman Merchandise") and Lynda Sappington ("Across the Valley", "Spotlight Starman of Ohio Newsletter")

Letterzine/Newsletter - "Spotlight Starman of Ohio Newsletter" (Lynda Sappington)

Non-Fiction - "Good Things From the Starman Universe" (Candi Farmer)

Poem - "Come Jenny Hayden" (Christine Menefee, "TRHIFC Celebrates Starman")

Novel/Novella (Tie) "Across the Valley" (Lynda Sappington) and "Loose Ends" (Linda Ratoff)

Short Story/Vignette - "Hummingbirds and Noisy Water" (Lynda Sappington, "TRHIFC Celebrates Starman")

Zine - "The Spirit of Starman, Blue Lights #36, Special Edition (Gayle High Pine)

VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA

Artist - Jeanne McClure ("Below the Surface" #4)

Short Story/Vignette - "Reason to Believe" (Kathryn Agel, "Below the Surface" #4)

Zine - "Below the Surface" #4 (Kathryn Agel)

WAR OF THE WORLDS

Artist - TACS ("Bring 'Em Back Alive" #2, "Celestial Toybox" #7)

Short Story/Vignette - "War at the Gates" (Jan Lindner, "Bring 'Em Back Alive" #2)

Zine - "Bring 'Em Back Alive" #2 (Cindy Rancourt & Kathy Coy)

The Nomination Form for next year is attached!

THE FAN QUALITY AWARDS: INFORMATION & NOMINATION FORM

HISTORY

The Fan Quality Awards were originated by Sharon Ferraro and Paula Smith in conjunction with SeKwester*Con, Too in 1977. The categories that year were "Best Author/Writer" and "Best Artist", and this was within the "Star Trek" fandom only. Since 1977, the Fan Q's have reflected fandom's changing trends and while it is sometimes difficult to view them as little more than popularity contests, it is hoped that quality is also emphasized. With continuing input and suggestions from fans, categories have come and gone. New fandoms have been introduced, old fandoms have endured, and other fandoms have faded away. The Fan Quality Awards reflect the involvement of fans who nominate their favorite stories, art, zines, etc. Through this involvement, the ballot is created, final vote is tabulated and awards given. The flexibility of the Fan Q's will hopefully allow the opportunity of future and current fans in *printed* fiction and non-fiction to be honored for their efforts.

NOMINATING FOR THE BALLOT

I. WHO CAN NOMINATE

- A. Any person who is eligible to attend MediaWest*Con, however one does not have to be a member to nominate or vote. (There is a yearly one-time \$1.00 non-member fee to participate, to help defray expenses.)

II. WHAT TO NOMINATE

- A. Any new publication or items within a new publication. Item must have been *originally* published between January 1, 1992 and December 31, 1992, inclusively.
- B. Materials that have been reprinted in a zine from previous years do not qualify.
- C. MediaWest*Con staff members do not qualify.
- D. There are no limits on how *many* items one can nominate, however you may nominate each work only once.

III. THE NOMINATION FORM

- A. **ONE NOMINATION PER FORM. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY.** Please duplicate blank forms as needed.
- B. **GEN or SLASH** - Due to numerous requests, we will offer separate-but-equal awards. Slash deals with the premise of same-sex physical relationships, although not necessarily explicitly. Gen is non-Slash material, whether of an "adult" nature, or not.
- C. **FANDOM** - This is your choice, however if the item involves more than *one* fandom, it falls into Multi-Fandom.
- D. **CATEGORIES** - Some are self explanatory. Read the instructions carefully.
 1. Favorite Poem/Filk
 2. Favorite Story - Fiction, any piece, any length, published within a zine.
 3. Favorite Zine - Fiction, any collection of stories or poems; also includes "novels," defined as any piece, any length, published by itself in a stand-alone zine.
 4. Favorite Non-Fiction Story - Articles, essays, etc.
 5. Favorite Non-Fiction Zine - Includes letterzines, newsletters, calendars, indexes, etc.
 6. Favorite Art - For untitled artwork, specify page number instead of title.

As an experiment, we would like to recognize outstanding achievement in the following categories:

1. Artist of the Year
2. Author of the Year
3. Poet/Filker of the Year
4. Publisher of the Year

*This is to reward those who have put forth a consistently high level of work in fandom. Please note, as with all nominations, this is exclusive to work done in 1992 only. Nominees can be anyone eligible to attend MediaWest*Con.*

E. THE REST OF THE FORM

1. Title - Title of the story, article, zine, etc. When nominating an artist or editor, leave blank.
2. Author/Artist - Fill in except for Editor.
3. Publication - Name of the publication the nominated item or person appeared in.
4. Editor of Publication
5. Publisher of Publication - Fill in if different from Editor
NOTE: Please be very specific when filling out the Editor/Publisher lines. The information is needed to contact nominees.
6. Signature - First print your name clearly, then sign it.
7. MediaWest*Con Member - If you are, print your membership number.

IV. WHAT TO DO WHEN FORM IS COMPLETELY FILLED OUT

- A. Send the nomination form (with \$1.00 if a non-MediaWest*Con member), two (2) S.A.S.E.s, and a 3 x 5 card with your name, address, phone number and signature on it (I am trying again this year to get a file together so I have some way of contacting folks who have participated, should the need arise.). Please use the card and not pieces of paper or envelopes -- thanks! All the information on the card is confidential and will not go beyond me. *Send only one set of two S.A.S.E.s and one 3x5 card, no matter how many nominations you submit before the deadline. One S.A.S.E. will be used to send you the final ballot, and the other will be used to send you the list of 1993 winners.*
- B. All nomination forms must be *received* by February 15, 1993. In order to contact all nominees before printing the ballot, we need to have this earlier nomination deadline. There will be *no* extension, so get your nominations in promptly. You can submit ballots at any time between now and February 15, all at once, or individually. I suggest you keep a stack of nomination forms on hand and fill them out as you read potential nominees throughout the year!

IV. WHAT QUALIFIES FOR THE FINAL BALLOT

- A. The work of anyone eligible to attend MediaWest*Con.
- A. The five (5) items with the most nominations in each category, per fandom, will appear on the final ballot. There must be at least one other item in competition in that category. There are no automatic wins.

1993 FAN QUALITY AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Read the instructions above carefully. Please print legibly, or type. Incomplete or illegible nominations will be discarded. All nominees must have been published in 1992. Nominations must be received by February 15, 1993. Feel free to copy this form and pass it on (please copy both sides of this sheet with the instructions as well as the nomination form). Thank you.

MULTI-FANDOM, or FANDOM (fill in): _____

(check one) GEN SLASH

CATEGORY (check one)

- Favorite Poem/Filk
- Favorite Story
- Favorite Non-Fiction Story

- Favorite Zine
- Favorite Non-Fiction Zine
- Favorite Art

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR/ARTIST: _____

PUBLICATION: _____

EDITOR'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PUBLISHER'S NAME (if different): _____

ADDRESS (if different): _____

ARTIST OF THE YEAR: _____

AUTHOR OF THE YEAR: _____

POET/FILKER OF THE YEAR: _____

EDITOR OF THE YEAR: _____

YOUR NAME (print): _____ YOUR SIGNATURE: _____

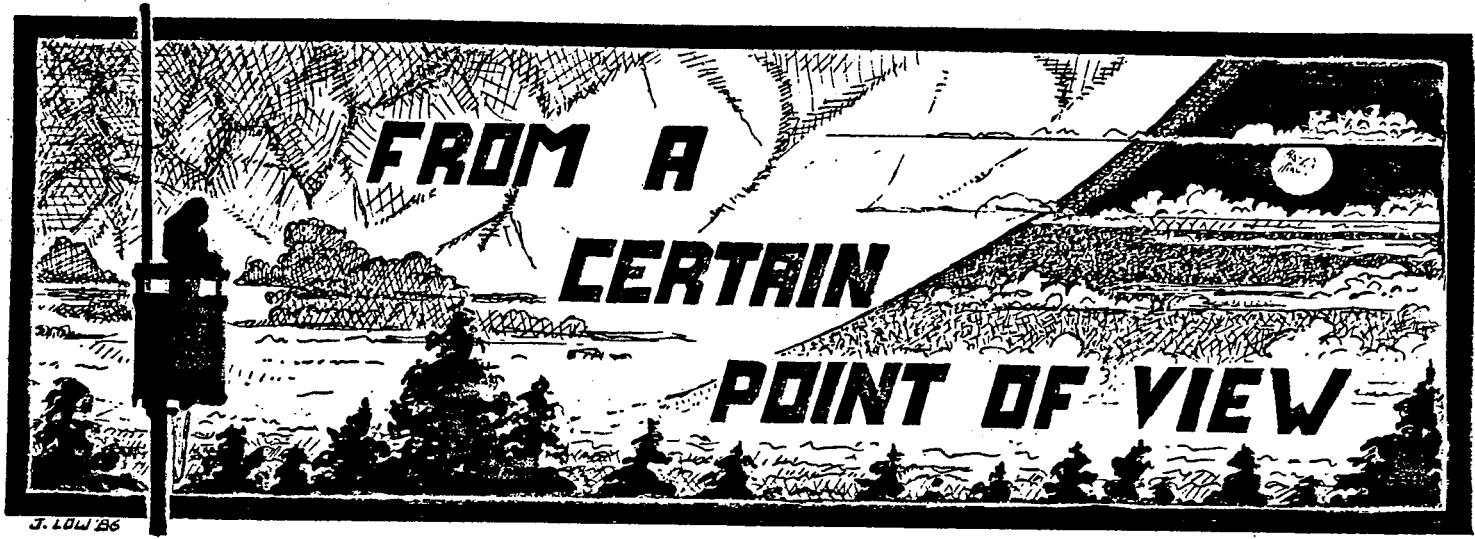
MediaWest*Con 13 Membership #: _____, or enclosed is my \$1, or I have already paid \$1 to participate in the 1993 nominations

*NOTE: Without your nominations, there would be no Fan Quality Awards. It is important that you nominate and encourage others to do so, and follow up by voting. Make us many copies of the nomination form and instructions as you wish, and feel free to reprint them in zines, newsletters, or anything else. You may nominate anything you feel is quality, including your own works, but don't be pressured into nominating something you personally don't like, simply in the name of friendship. Use your own judgment, and keep the Quality in the Fan Quality Awards. If you are a nominee, please make arrangements to have your Fan Quality Award nominated material available in the Fanzine Reading Room at MediaWest*Con. Ask Jeanne Sullivan for further information on how to do this. If you would like to find out more about MediaWest*Con, send a S.A.S.E. to MediaWest*Con, 200 E. Thomas St., Lansing MI 48906-4047.*

Return form to: (Before September 1992)
Jeanne E. Sullivan
2371 N. Aurelius Rd. #10
Holt MI 48842
Phone: (517) 694-9729

(After September 1992)
Jeanne E. Sullivan
2515 Perry Ave.
Bremerton WA 98310
Phone: (206) 377-8473

No calls after 10 p.m. (Michigan and Washington times respectively), and NO COLLECT CALLS. If you get the answering machine, please leave a message.



Carolyn Colledge
6 Burrawang St.
Ettalong 2257
NSW, Australia

April 3, 1992

((*Ed: To my abject embarrassment and distress, I discovered the following LoC while in the process of attempting to clear my desk of all the backlogged material that had piled up on it. I nearly fainted when I saw that the envelope from Carolyn that was buried deep in the pile was not only a LoC, but was dated April 3rd! Carolyn, you have my most humble apologies for this monumental screwup. You may strap me on the scan grid of your choice and zap me to your heart's delight! I am very sorry!)*)

G'day, everyone! Yep, the mad Aussie has returned! And I hope that by the time you read this, it will also be true to say that I also returned to the USA long enough to attend Media-West*Con...it's always too good to miss, even if it means a 20-hour flight and being in debt to Jabba the Hutt for the rest of my life! Hey, maybe I should dub that trans-Pacific flight "the Kessel Run"!

Before I ramble on any further, I must congratulate Ming Wathne, Kathy Agel, Melanie Gutierrez, and the others who have taken up the mantle of SW fanzine publication. Thank you, and well done!

Also, many many thanks to Judy Yuenger for all the hours of hard work she put into organizing the STAR aWARdS. People like you all, and Cheree, are the heart of fandom.

As to new writers joining the fray, I must admit I agree with whoever commented against the idea of editors advertising for only "the best" material. Hey, I'd never have sent in anything

when I was starting if I was faced with that task! As it was, I sent my first story ("Mindlink") to Cheree hoping for no more than that she would read it and tell me what she thought. I cannot begin to describe the elation I felt when she wrote back to say she wanted to publish it! Of course, it needed a lot of rewriting first, and Cheree had gone to the trouble of including a detailed list of suggestions, which we then worked through together. That kind of service and friendly support is invaluable to new writers and, if SW fanzines are to survive, it must always be available. But it's a two-way street in that the writer must also be willing to accept and follow the advice given.

For those of you who now have a copy of BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #2 in your hot little hands, you'll see (I hope!) that I responded to Maggie Nowakowska's request to discuss the popularity of the trash-the-hero-type fan story. I'm rather embarrassed by my answer as I feel it came nowhere close to getting to the meat of the issue (you should pardon the pun!), so I'd like to see what you all think on the subject. And, also on my additional query concerning why some people dislike "trashing" so much. Of course, there's no reason why this discussion cannot be extended to cover other story types, too. Hey, let us know what you want to read! Though that doesn't necessarily mean writers will provide it, I don't know about my fellow writers, but speaking for myself, I write primarily for the fun of it, which means therefore that I write what appeals to me.

So, what did you all think of the tribute to George Lucas at the Academy Awards? I thought it was overdue, and the segment itself was the only really interesting one in what is always a rather tedious affair. I loved the inclusion of the shuttle crew. But I do have negative comments as well, those being mainly centered on my view that

Lucas is not the god some fans perceive him to be, and nor do I believe he is as dedicated to some of the ideals we personally hold for SW as he may seem to be. I believe that was made obvious by the blatantly toy-oriented theme of RETURN OF THE JEDI (to hell with the story!), and then WILLOW. No doubt many of you will want to disown me now, but so be it, them's my honest feelings on the matter! I also believe that RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK was more to Spielberg's credit than Lucas, and EMPIRE STRIKES BACK more to Leigh Brackett and Irvin Kershner. And Lawrence Kasdan should not be left out. George hit on a great idea and showed admirable dedication to the original concept of SW, but from there I believe, its survival has been more due to the efforts of others. End of speech. Bring out the ropes and knives!

Now to some specific comments...

Jacqueline Taero: Agree with your theory that much of Luke's experience in the dark cave/tree was due to Yoda's telling him it was a place of evil. That was bound to put the boy's nerves on edge! Nonetheless, I think it was not a place whose moods changed to fit the mind expectations of the visitor. It was too creepy to be pleasant! Also agree that James Earl Jones' voice is much of the cause for fannish attraction to Vader. In fact, I've noticed that voice is the major part of my attraction to many actors. Looks alone would not do it for me with Ford or Costner if they had soprano voices! And look at the effect of Anthony Hopkins' voice in SILENCE OF THE LAMBS.

Debbie Kittle: Hope by now I've met you in person. Yes, the ending of ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN was a tear-jerker...but it could have been worse! To aid recovery of my mood, I immediately reread some of the Harper Cove scenes from THE WHITE DRAGON. My favorite.

Z. P. Florian: (Another one I hope to have met by now!) Yep, if that neurotic little idiot (Mara) wins Luke, I hate to imagine what kind of children they'll produce! In some writers' eyes (and unfortunately Zahn's interpretation at least began in like fashion), Luke is already bordering on being a depressive! He doesn't need reinforcement from his mate! I think someone of opposite personality type would be far better for him, maybe even a non-Jedi. Hey, he needs a Corellian!

So, in answer to your Fan Poll: Luke is not getting the girl because he needs to lighten up a little and find someone of Corellian nature!

Marti Schuller: I'm in full agreement with your views re old movies. The colorization stuff doesn't bother me too much, but the way modern

movie producers seem unable to recognize a plain, good story sure does! Why, oh, why do they seem to believe that only lots of noise, sex, gore, and special effects are needed to produce an entertaining movie!

A. G. Steyn: Loved your Royal Abbreviations!

Nora Mayers: Agree 100% with your suggestion for fans to boycott this Creation Con stuff while they're trying to turn us into consumers! That is to say, if what I read is correct, it's the first I've heard of it.

Catherine Churko: Hi! Hope both you and your father are doing better. Take care...I want to see more of your lovely artwork!

Ming Wathne: Gee, that "get" story you mentioned from PASSAGE TO ARMS must be the only one I've never read! I'll have to track it down! Compare techniques! See if there's any means of creating suffering that I missed! Well, I fall into both weather-type categories. I'm also one to wear a sweater when the temperature is 70, but I thrive on cold weather. Well, at least, I get more writing done! The only thing I hate about your northern winters is the long, long absence of FLOWERS! I'm a garden nut! In fact, I think I prefer gardening above all else, but since I'm not well enough to do much of it anymore, I'll continue with the writing.

I was really looking forward to REGARDING HENRY. Hey, my type of story line...but am I the only person out there who felt it was flat? I was actually bored! I felt the original Henry was, if not nice, at least vital and talented, and his loss was a tragedy that was not a good thing!

Jennifer Moore: Hey, now that's an idea! What if Kenobi had made it off the Death Star? Would he have eventually killed Solo, or vice versa! Naww... Actually, I think Kenobi kind of liked Solo! But, as to the impact his survival would have had on Luke...oooo!...maybe he would have convinced Luke that killing Vader was the only way to go!

Michelle Malkin: Hi! And thanks for one of the most entertaining SW zines ever produced! Yep, original characters can really get a grip on you, I suppose because you put more of your own thought into them. The same happened for me with an Imperial officer character I created for my story, "False Friends"... I wound up writing a non-SW novel about him! 350 pages!

Matthew Whitney: Ditto your feelings re Pern series and Tolkien. As to inviting "stars" to a con like MediaWest, initially the idea appealed to me, but now I'm having misgivings. I wouldn't

want anything to spoil the fans-for-fans atmosphere of sheer love of creativity of MediaWest ever to change. I can't help but wonder how much it might become a matter of attendees only wanting to hear what the "celebrity" has to say, rather than stimulating and appreciating their own talents.

Sally Syrjala: Hey, someone else who's read Carol Pearson's book, THE WARRIOR WITHIN. Wasn't it great? And I loved the way you applied it to Solo's development. You and I will have to discuss this further in our letters.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: Just want to pass on my congratulations on the great job you're doing for SW fandon in Italy, and thanks for asking me to contribute.

Ann Birnstiel: Hi! Yes, some of those panels at last year's MediaWest were harder to find than a shortcut to Kessel. Let's hope the new venue this year overcomes these problems.

Tim Blaes: Love your idea for a cross-universe SW zine. As I said, if I wasn't so lazy, I'd get that Pern/SW cross written for you! Meantime, I hope you can use the reprint I offered as it originally appeared in a multi-media zine and I don't think many SW fans caught it.

Leanne Wingo: Hi! Hey, about that letter you owe me! Aww, c'mon! I'll bet I'm not the only one who would love to read "The Day George Went Too Far". Submit it! Sounds like Tim might be able to use it!

B. J. Evans: Amid all the complaints about HEIR TO THE EMPIRE (with which I am in full agreement, but then again I'm also starved for anything from Lucas re the sequel to ROTJ and beggars can't be choosers). What I want here, people, is sympathy and lots of it! A friend of mine who spends a lot of time in hospital conned me into reading this thing for him on tape. I'm about half-way through. HELP!

Maggie Nowakowska: Agree totally with preferring to see Fisher's reaction if she hadn't been told. Of course, Lucas may have become a murder statistic! Thanks very much for the info on Joseph Campbell bio—now all I gotta do is find it!

Well, Cheree, this is the good bit—THE END. Meantime, keep a little optimism, everyone!

ooooooooooooooooooooooo

Nora Mayers
7521 Murray Hill Road
Apartment 638
Columbia, MD 21046

July 21, 1992

Hi, all! I thought I'd take a few minutes off from torturing myself by trying to write Act III of my SW novel (It WILL be ready for Octobertrek, it WILL be ready for Octobertrek, it WILL be ready for Octobertrek...it will, won't it?) and respond to a few letters.

First, it was nice talking to you at MWC, Cheree, and I hope we'll have an even better opportunity next year.

Regarding YIJC: I had my doubts at first, but as the series progressed, I began to recognize the Indy we've come to know and love from the films (however, I do object to him running into every famous person ever born before World War II). I have a few complaints, however, particularly with the characterization of Old Indy. In the last episode, the old fella was in a hospital emergency room being treated for a bee sting to his toe. Indy? Running to a doctor for a bee sting? Not even at the age of 93! Furthermore, as charming as the older man is, he isn't the same man who found the Ark, took a roller coaster ride through hell, or discovered the Holy Grail. The characterization is just too far off for me to believe, even given the number of years that have passed since we got our last look at our favorite archaeologist. I don't buy it. One more quibble before I stop—as much as I admire and applaud GL's decision to produce such a magnificently visual series for the small screen, why'd he have to do it with Indy? I like Jones the way I got him on a movie screen—fast, funny, improbable, and Harrison. I know I'm in the minority on this one, but honestly, I know where to go for Masterpiece Theater when I want it, and somehow Indiana Jones doesn't seem a likely candidate for analysis by Alistair Cooke. I've heard that Ford may do Indy at 50, however, and wouldn't that be terrific? (I'll do my own analysis of Ford, Mr. Cooke, thank you.)

Pern: Would someone PLEASE tell me what (or who?) Pern is and what I'm missing? ((Ed: Pern is the planet on which Anne McCaffrey's Dragon-rider books are set. It's a terrific world and series of books. Check 'em out!))

Tim Blaes: What's this about another SUPERMAN movie? And without Chris Reeve? I know

he may be getting a bit long in the tooth to play the Man of Steel, but like Harrison Ford, the years don't show. I'd enjoy seeing him back in the role.

And now, it's back to torturing myself by trying to write Act III of the novel from hell (it WILL be ready for Octobertrek, it WILL be ready for...)

Cheers all, and fly casual...

Spanish Fly?

Z. P. Florian
6214 Waterway Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22044

July 22, 1992

STAR WARS fans are the greatest people on Earth. This sums up my impression of MWC. I was glad I went. See you all next year! I hope I'll be able to have more time to meet everyone for longer conversations. I barely had a minute to throw myself at Mary Urhausen's feet and ask her to do another WC... I missed the chance to meet a lot of you...

Jacqueline Taero: (I am afraid this will be long!) How the Empire existed at all? How can any empire exist? At the US/Canadian border, 99% of the "line" is easy to cross at any place. People still cross at the guard stations, because that's where the safe roads are. In a big Galaxy, legitimate business and passengers would stick to busy space routes because those are patrolled (no pirates, quick emergency service, etc.). The Empire provides protection in exchange for a measure of control. In any empire, the terror affects only those who live close to the center. But that's enough. Government purchases are keeping the big shipyards alive, for example, therefore, the government can control those. Who cares about dingy space garages where smalltime smugglers buy spare parts for rusty freighters? In the US, you can steal computer software by simply copying it, but there is still a profit in the sale of them. Why do you buy any software when you can copy it? Because you are basically honest, or you don't know anybody to copy it from.

Any which way, most people voluntarily submit to government control, maybe because they need both leadership and protection. This is what totalitarian governments thrive on.

And, yes, Vader's face was a bummer. To begin with, I don't think he had his eyes intact, let alone the whole face.

I loved your idea of Luke getting a rough, aggressive, barbarian girl instead of the usual Jedi-Sue. Besides, who knows what Luke eats with at state banquets? His upbringing on Tatooine didn't exactly prepare him for finding the right fork! ((Ed: Oh, ye gods, Z.P.! What a story idea! Luke in attendance at a state dinner with Leia, and suddenly it's like the lobster scene in SPLASH! Ha!! I love it!!))

Ming Wathne: How Leia knew where to find Kenobi? Yes, she probably had a list of possible contacts.

Marti Schuller: I am very uncertain about Luke's "nocturnal activities". Sometimes I think a Jedi must be chaste (neither Yoda nor Kenobi had company!) and sometimes I see him as a guy who gladly takes a willing partner anytime. A Jedi must be able to "feel" the willingness quite clearly and it must be hard not to respond in kind.

Cheryl Pryor: Darthie had a lot more opportunity to have mistresses, as powerful men in royal courts seldom lack female admirers. The question is, did he have the equipment?

Tim Blaes: Yeah, a Vulcan and a Terran are fine, but just wait until Chewie tries to marry a Corellian girl. Of course, the prejudice is only valid for us. In the SW galaxy, no one appeared surprised that Jabba wanted Leia. Apparently, race is of no consequence in Lucas' universe and we all should make an effort to shed our planet-bound ideas!

Matthew Whitney: Faraway worlds like Tatooine obviously had their own laws, and they could have been totally different from the mainstream galactic laws. IMO, for example, spice was legal on many planets while illegal on others.

By the way, how above a lively discussion on what the heck spice is, anyway? Coffee? Tobacco? Heroin? Pepper? Spanish fly? It is something that has to be mined! A cargo of spice: is it measured by the ton? Come on, guys, let's define the elusive thing. ((Ed: We know that Han was smuggling in a load for Jabba and he dumped it because he was about to be boarded by an Imperial search party. This could mean that spice is equivalent to cocaine and therefore highly il-

legal, or it could mean that spice is as legal as cigarettes, but Han was smuggling in a load without the required Imperial tax stamp on them or a load of stolen spice "cigarettes".)

A. G. Steyn: Kenobi IS a carbonite-pit hearted sonovabantha! Take a young dumb kid and set him up to kill his own daddy? A kid dumb enough to be worried about patricide being a sin, no matter what daddy is up to? As someone once said, what would Luke say after Kenobi casually told him, "By the way, Luke, that was your pop you just cut in half."

Re Palpatine's self-esteem being too high: Most certainly! He knew Luke wasn't up to killing him, but he sure underestimated the Rebels, and definitely forgot about Vader's secret desire to kill him. He was totally caught up in the orgasmic delight of seeing Luke writhe—a no-no for any villain!

Michelle Malkin: Why Dagobah seemed familiar to Luke? I always thought he simply sensed Yoda's presence, that was similar to Kenobi's. Your explanation makes more sense. No, Bib Fortuna wasn't a Hutt. No, I am not saying Jedi's have an unnatural sex life (although I'd buy any zine on the subject!), but let me repeat myself: Kenobi and Yoda obviously lacked company...and they never once talked about Luke getting married eventually to make little Jedi babies.

Mary Urhausen: "Wheedling art out of me"? I practically threw it on you! Ahem, and is there going to be a WC in our future? Huh? Huh? Please! It is enough that Lucas is not giving us enough SW, you can't be doing the same thing!

Debbie Kittle: Ming said that at the next MWC we should have a doll exhibition. I am all for it! We could set up little scenes from the movies or from fanfic! I bet everyone wants to see Luke in Corellian costume and Han in that sequined jockstrap!

MaggieNo: Owen is probably renting from some local landlord and has to pay with a percentage of his crop. I am glad Lucas insisted on Luke not reacting loud and angry. He is never loud and angry. He is an inner-driven introvert; as you say, he had been humiliated many times in his life. He is extremely subdued with Owen, like someone who had been slapped around by Uncle a little too often, just like Beru who seems constantly scared. Hiding Vader's kid is a very stressful undertaking and life on the Lars farm must have been very tense.

Re the Force: In SW, it does need faith to work Force-miracles, and the Jedi are referred to

as an "ancient religion". This is hard to deal with. Obviously, the Force can only be used by people with certain genes, which enable them to sense it. I don't have the gene. I can't feel the Force, therefore, I can't manipulate it. Just like using ultrasound waves to get around. Any bat can do it, but I can't. However, I don't know how faith comes into the picture. Does faith trigger the release of Force-reactive hormones? Do we have a doctor in the house?

Catriona Campbell: What Macauley Culkin to play what young Luke where? I hope this is just a stupid rumor. Would you please let us know where you learned so much about torture? You must know that "Missing" is a very much sought after story, as WC is not available at all! I am glad you are with SE! And I don't mind talking about Rebel terrorist tactics again or any other subject. We always get something new out of it.

A last word on Luke getting the girl. The task of giving him anyone is difficult because he grows so much during the three movies. The Tatooine farmboy would be happy with almost anything that has the right body temperature and is willing. The young Rebel pilot would pair up with any strong, confident, loving Rebel girl. But the full-fledged Jedi who had been to Hell and back several times? Who measures up to Leia? (Who, incidentally, behaves very strangely on Endor, advising him to run away and hide! IMO, that was very weird. Who else thinks so?)

Bye for now and keep your Wookiees dry!

Perfect Timing

Marti Schuller
415 S.E. Amnette
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

August 4, 1992

I have just finished reading (and making margin notes on) this latest issue of SE. What a treasure! How will I ever keep this within Cheree's guidelines? Before I comment further on the contents, I have to tell you, Cheree, that the arrival of SE#32 was perfect. I don't know about other fans, but there seem to be times in my life when my fan interests—reading and writing—take

a backseat to other demands. Then, with little or no warning, my passion for SW will flare brilliantly for several weeks/months on end. I am just now coming back to earth a bit from such an explosion, so, of course, SE has arrived to fan the flames anew. How am I supposed to even consider creating my own original work when there is so much I want to yet address in SE?

I really enjoyed reading the panel discussion from MWC#12, but it made me all the sadder for not having been there to participate. Russians only now discovering SW? How terrific! It'd be great to get their input in SE and fandom in general. I recently spent a nearly sleepless weekend with Veronica Wilson, though, and we are absolutely, definitely, positively determined that we will both be at MWC '93! If we have to rob a bank, steal a car, whatever it takes! (So long as Veronica holds my hand during the plane trip, that is. Force, I HATE flying!)

Judith: Your report on the con was great. I loved, could almost see, the fun during the STAR awards ceremony. Congrats to all the winners, by the by. The photos were delicious. It was nice to see so many familiar and new faces.

Cheree: Best of luck with your new job. I hope by now you're settled into it more comfortably. I was sorry to read of Thor's passing, but congratulate you and wish you luck with Wolf. Having 18-year-old and a 12-year-old dogs myself, I empathize with all who lose their beloved pets. My day will arrive too soon, I fear.

Judith again: I was so happy to read that no one troubled you over your smoking. I, too, consider myself a "civilized" smoker, respectful of others, but will vehemently defend my rights to smoke wherever it's allowed. Knowing your experience will make me feel even better about attending MWC next year.

Z. P. Florian: Alright, another DRAGONLANCE fan. Now, how do you feel about David Eddings' THE BELGARIAD and THE MALLOREON series?

I hope you're right about computers being as common as telephones in the next ten years, but I have a feeling it could be a while longer unless prices are drastically reduced or the economy does a high swing soon.

Jacqueline Taero: Is there a valid reason why the Empire as we know it should exist? No, but look at it this way: without it, there'd be no films. For that reason, I'm willing to suspend credulity. Aren't you? It is fun to speculate, though.

Ming Wathne: Perhaps Vader's refusal to

acknowledge Anakin until the end had more to do with his internal conflicts than suddenly wanting to see his line continue. I agree there are men who ignore their offspring in early years, only becoming interested later, but I dispute that it's because they abruptly realize their own mortality. I've always felt that this stems more from the male need to provide for a growing family, his feelings that providing must be his first priority and that, as infants and toddlers, even as primary school-age children, he finds his offspring cute and to be loved, but certainly far from interesting. As the child(ren) reach the teens, they become more interesting and/or rebellious, requiring the father's attention at a time when he is also feeling less concerned about earning a living or establishing a career. As we age, we mellow (usually, anyway) and we gain a better perspective on our lives. Many fathers, my own and even my husband, lament the lost opportunities they had when their children were younger, but only because they themselves have finally matured, not out of facing death.

Lisa Cowan: Okay, I'll show my ignorance. What is an APA? I am going to frame your passed-on definition of a Mary Sue! I love it!!!

Cheryl Pryor: A DNA scan on Luke's discarded stormtrooper armor revealing his identity? What an intriguing story idea!

Thanks for the encouraging words re my SW writing. You wouldn't believe some of the stuff I'm coming up with. Now, if I can just find "homes" for them all.

A. G. Steyn: I can't remember when I've laughed so hard at a letter. You have a terrific, if slightly warped, sense of humor and you write divinely. Keep it up. We need more like you.

As to whether "Palpie" couldn't find more gifted people, aside from DV, I suspect he couldn't control more than one completely. Hey, he couldn't really control DV, but he *thought* he could. Maybe he did realize, in one clear sane non-megalomaniac moment, that one was more than enough for him.

As to why Vader saved Leia when she could serve no truly useful purpose, I believe he genuinely admired her spirit. Surely, he saw enough cowered, fawning, etc., types. She was a breath of fresh air without representing any real threat to him. He could afford to be generous, therefore.

I'm glad to find another fan of Treena's "Missing". (Cheree, this story can be found in two parts in WOOKIEE COMMODE #6 and 7. Enjoy.)

Ops, sorry. I will find a home soon for "Her Ladyship," I promise. I loved your scenario for Lando and Han's backgrounds. Very plausible and likeable, too.

Catherine Churko: Thanks for the compliment on my writing and "Revelations." I fear you'll probably soon seen more of my stories than you can bear.

Debbie Kittle: Inferno? Thanks, but no thanks. In fact, we've had one of the wettest Julys on record. Sob! Is there nowhere on this planet with moderate temperatures year 'round?

I agree with your response to Jennifer about Ben eventually taking Luke to Dagobah if he'd lived. My question is, can only a living entity instruct in the Force? It would seem so. Perhaps those glowing "after-images" have a finite time span that would make training in the ways of the Force too spasmodic. You know, your ten minutes are up, that sort of thing. Anyone else ever wonder?

Maggie Nowakowska: Oooh, I like and fully agree with your assessment of Luke's sex/love life. Beautifully expressed!

I also like your "softer" view of Kenobi and the reason for it. Yes, it is a bad judgment on his part, but also an understandable one and he's as fallible as the rest of us. In fact, I have a family situation similar to the one you described, where a child thinks one man is his father, but the rest of us know otherwise. So far, none of us has told the child the truth, since his parents haven't. It is a very awkward position to be in, let me assure any who doubt.

Catriona Campbell: Treena! Hi! It's about time! (Smile, I couldn't resist!) Welcome to the pages of SE. Thank you for the compliment, but you and SW fandom were destined to come together sooner or later. Just keep writing, my friend. We need your talent.

Macaulay Culkin could *only* play a young (too young, of course) Palpatine and fit our dear saga for me. HORRORS!

Now, I have one more question to throw out to SE readers. This arose during that weekend I mentioned earlier with Veronica and since neither of us could come up with a definitive answer, I told her I would ask all of you. So here it is: What did the Jedi of old do with someone who was falling or had fallen to the Dark Side? Imprisonment seems highly improbable and wouldn't execution reek of the Dark Side itself? Tolerance doesn't seem likely either. Surely, Vader wasn't the first! I look forward to your ideas.

Have a joyous holiday season (this in August, no less), stay healthy and keep the Force, always. Peace.

Fan History

Maggie Nowakowska
2330 Federal Avenue E.
Seattle, WA 98102

August 12, 1992

Congratulations to everyone on their STAR aWARdS! And to you, Cheree, for your Fan Q as well! I know I was totally surprised to receive mine for my filk; the certificate and medal are lovely. Thank you!

The MWC panel transcription was fascinating. I've been digging into my old zines and memorabilia and letter files and such, working on my history of SW fandom (see "ad" following this discussion), and came across a letter that might clear up some of the historical questions that arose in the panel. I'm quoting (with permission) Bev Clark, someone who was very active right from the beginning of SW fandom, who had lots of contacts in SoCal, and whose memory has amazed and astonished her friends for many years now. This letter, dated 11/84, is from the letterzine COM-LINK, Issue 22, April 1985:

"...According to Craig Miller with whom I talked earlier this year at Westercon, and who was the first fan liaison at Lucasfilm, Paramount's inability to control what was done with STAR TREK because of original neglect (partly because of its inexplicable failure to copyright the first season) was one of the main motivations for Lucas' establishment of control over how SW was used from the beginning. And in the case of A NEW HOPE, there was 20th Century Fox to contend with also, as Fox owned a large part of ANH. In fact, there almost wasn't a SW fandom at all, at least centered around fanzines, and the reason was Fox. It took nearly a year of negotiation between Lucasfilm and Fox—negotiations conducted for the most part by Gary

Kurtz himself, and sometimes Craig—before Fox would agree to allow unrestricted publications of fanzines. Lucasfilm backed them all along. Craig says he and "others" at Lucasfilm were disappointed that SW fanzines took the direction they did, i.e., fiction, like ST zines, rather than to articles and analysis, like SF fanzines, but they backed the zines anyway. I have more reason than most to be glad they did, as [my fanzine] SKYWALKER was the zine they took to Fox to show them what a fanzine was—and this was before I even knew they had copies of the zines.

"Also, Lucasfilm had been a presence at conventions before SW opened. Mark Hamill and Gary Kurtz attended Midamericon [WorldCon '76] to promote the film from a booth at which they would talk to people who came by. Hamill also attended other cons in 1976 and 1977, and Kurtz has been attending cons at least since 1980, when SW was shown to a packed auditorium at NoreasCon II [WorldCon '80]; Denvention [WorldCon '81] had a double bill of ANH and TESB; Chicon [WorldCon '82] RAIDERS and LACon [WorldCon '84] had a triple bill of the SW movies. (I don't know about Constellation [WorldCon '83] because I wasn't there.) At Westercon this summer, George Lucas' original THX 1138 was shown, along with his documentary on the making of Francis Coppola's THE RAIN PEOPLE. Other people from the movies and Lucasfilm have been on the programs at cons for the last two or three years; ... there have been special "making of" films made for the cons (and later incorporated into televised specials). Carrie Fisher and Richard Marquand were guests and on a panel at LACon this summer. True, Lucas himself has never attended (so far as we know; rumors were rampant at LACon that "George is here!"), but from everything I've read and heard about his personality, it's more likely that his absence is due to terminal shyness (and logistics problems for the con) than to disdain.

"Of course, Lucasfilm isn't perfect, nor was the STAR WARS Corporation, which is what was actually involved in those early relations with fandom. An independent fan club was squashed early on, as was a proposed SW con, and the story went out that the SW actors had been forbidden to attend any con in which there was unauthorized SW material or activity. Some of this seemed unreasonable, especially to a fan, and no explanation was ever given that I

know of. But I don't think that George Lucas' attitude toward fandom has ever been one of disdain, and I've been in SW fandom since the very beginning. Jeff Johnston [editor of the letterzine ALDERAAN] called it "SW Eofandom." ([Allyson Dyar, editor of COMLINK adds] I agree with Bev and being a charter member of SW Eofandom, I saw it all. While SW Corp./Lucasfilm meant no malice, they certainly were a pain in the butt. EoSW fans bent over backwards trying to find out if it was OK for fanzines and the like. Fans finally gave up and published fanzines on their own. I really do think that they could have made things a bit easier on their part.))"

That's a long quote, but it covers a lot of ground. A couple of additions from this SW EoFan: Frank Marshall, Howard Kazanjian and other LF honchos were regular visitors at West Coast cons such as NorWestCon in those early days; Kazanjian even endured the proverbial stuffy post-panel back room in order to sit and talk with fans about the fine points of the SW universe. It was directly from him that I heard that the Emperor was indeed Palpatine but, since his name was never mentioned on screen, even Kazanjian couldn't claim the name as SW dogma/canon/writ-in-stone truth. Also, in 1979, at the WorldCon in Britain, LF had a wonderful exhibit of props from TESB and actually hired attending fans (I was one; Bev was another) to stand as security at the exhibit. Kurtz attended and spoke with us quite a bit. Perhaps the difference between EuroCons and American ones comes into play here; in Britain, Kurtz just wandered around like any other con member, no gofers, no security necessary. You can get a lot more out of a person when he's feeling casual rather than guided and protected as Kurtz was next year at Boston's WorldCon. Bev asks that I mention one other thing—unlike other movie companies that send a PR flack to accept awards, LF sent Kurtz himself to accept their Hugo; this was considered quite a coup at the time.

What else? Oh, Cheree, I asked Jenni Hennig about the rejection of her idea of a pro fan history and she says it was Del Rey that turned her down. She's looking for the actual paperwork now so I can add it to the histories. I also asked if the rejection was as harsh as remembered, or simply something a younger fan might remember badly but an older one might recognize as simply an impersonal business rejection. She said she wouldn't be surprised if it were the latter, but

would withhold judgment until she found the letter again. ((Ed: Although I never saw the actual rejection letter, I have clear memories of sitting in Jenni's living room in Irving, Texas, in the spring of 1984, along with several other fans—which included, I believe, Annie Wortham, Linda Knights, Laura Virgil and several other Dallas area fans—the original Southern Enclave—and all of us were perturbed and angry at the rejection of Jenni's book idea. I distinctly recall her telling us that Del Rey had sent the book outline to Lucasfilm who had squashed it in no uncertain terms. As you say, perhaps it was a case of a young fan overreacting to a rejection letter, but my memories of this are very clear.))

Hokay, now the ad. My plans for a SW Fanzine Fan History are shaping up. I plan to start with pre-fan, late '76 when Kurtz and Hamill first appeared at a WorldCon promoting their new movie, and cover through 1986 in the first zine, to be published in 1994; #2 will feature 1987 through 1994, for publication in 1995. Both will be combined and updated (and corrected as necessary) for 1997, in anticipation of the next movie and new fans.

Now, I've got a pretty extensive collection of evidence in boxes in my basement office, and I know where a lot of the bones are buried, but I NEED YOUR HELP! It's been 15 years; we've all forgotten a lot of what went on and what we do remember can be pretty selective. I want to include surveys of what ideas kept the letterzines going—anyone interested in tracking the topics in SCOUNDREL or SOUTHERN ENCLAVE? I want to include lists of who LoCed (got these); of what zines were reviewed (I'm up on the core letterzines, but where else did SW zine reviews appear—let me know, better yet, send me a photocopy with citation info); of who won what award for which zine/story/art piece. I was involved in some of the old controversies—but (here comes the chorus) I'm going to need your help in keeping the reporting on an even keel—okay, who's willing to track the old "Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke" controversy?

I'm going to try to get time at MWCL3 for a "So, How Much Have YOU Forgotten in 15 Years?" panel/brainstorming session/workshop. If I don't get the time, my hotel room will be an ongoing workshop. I'll bring mockups of possible layouts and samples of the kinds of info I want to include. Check it out! Until and before then, write and let me know what you want to see in this kind of publication.

Desperately Seeking Data.
or,

So, What Have You Forgotten about Your Career in SW Fandom?

Do you remember the Duncan letter? * Do you know why the Scandinavian zine DARK LORD was so controversial? Or, ORGANIA? Or, even PEGASUS? * Do you remember which artist burned her fan art and why? * Do you remember the filk tapes? * What were the controversies that so fired the letterzines? * What stories/articles/reviews intrigued/infuriated fandom? Remember?

It's been a long, strange trip and if we don't get it down now, it will be off in the ozone forever. To put together a

Brief History of SW Fanzine Fandom

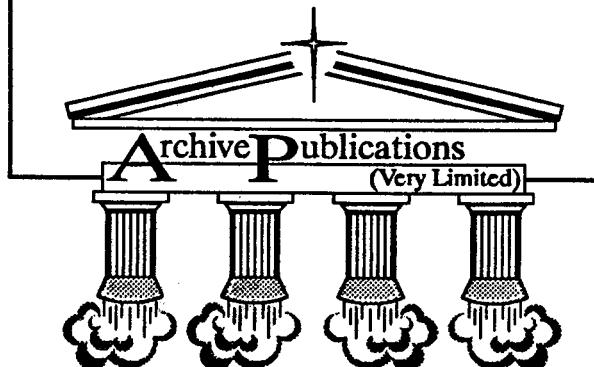
I need to know what kind of information fans would like to discover in such a history, and I need fans to help me gather such finds in the first place.

Send me a postcard with ideas; with questions you have and which I might be able to track down (with help, she whimpered yet again); with your name indicating interest in buying such a zine (planned publication—May, 1994).

Send anything you think will be worth saving/mentioning to:

Maggie Nowakowska
2330 Federal Ave. East
Seattle, WA 98102

(Yes, there will be an acknowledgments page!)



Also, I need a name for this thing! How about A BRIEF HISTORY OF SW FANTIME? ((Ed: If anyone is interested in doing the charting of topics, etc., through SE, I will supply them with copies of all issues from #1, published in September 1983, through this issue, #33. This offer is open to only ONE person, however, and strictly for the purpose of helping with research for Maggie's project. Write me if you're serious about this and not just because you'd like freebie back copies!))

Jacqueline Taero: You bring up a good point: What will Leia do with the stories she's been told about mom and dad now that she knows more of what really happened? She may not have had to deal with Owen's and Beru's and Ben's and Yoda's spin on things, but she did have Bail's and his wife's and their whole political set-up's version dealt to her. And, being a politician and raised-aristocrat, she probably brings a totally different understanding of such matters/necessities/plots to the current situation than Luke does. I see her more subdued ROTJ reaction to the news of Daddy Dearest as a reflection of that more sophisticated appreciation. Her first reaction was emotional: No! Run away!, then she starts thinking again and seems quickly and sadly overwhelmed by the practical possibilities—which is exactly what I expected of a pragmatic politician who has survived the Imperial Senate and the on-the-edge politics of a subversive movement to overthrow the current powers-that-be.

By the by, loved your "Wild Ones" Leia poem!

The plottings of the Medieval kings to eliminate the Knights Templar seem to be a fine set up for Palpatine vs. the Jedi. All the hysterical accusations of devil-worship, etc., fit right in with the kind of accusations we hear even today when one group is jealous/afraid of another group's power (America/Saddam is the Great Satan; Russia is the Evil Empire; the Yellow Peril is anti-individualism (circa 1910 and 1990). I'm not saying that a perceived enemy might not actually be deserving of opposition, but rather that accusations of great spiritual evil such as were leveled at the Templars, etc., are more useful as mirrors than assessments of the actual situation. The Templars were strong and a potential threat to the King's power; and they were organized. The power of the state was brought to bear against them and won...but oh, does the legend of the Templars live on, for better or worse!

Ming Wathne: Of course, one uses the left hand for the mouse and the right for the keys! Is

there any other way? Heh heh—and all the righties here at work wonder why I'm so fast on the machines.

Tim Blaes: Oh, yes, the subject of beastiality has come up in ST fandom. There was a distinct Fundamental contingent in ST fandom years ago that sorrowfully (for they were indeed ST fans) concluded that Amanda was guilty of beastiality because Sarek, not being a son of Adam, was not created in God's image.

Matthew Whitney: I imagine the Alliance picked up a lot of attention from the landed population of Imperial planets when Tarkin blew up Alderaan. As you say, so long as the Empire doesn't bother me...and who but the portside populations would indeed be bothered? I have a difficult time imagining a stormtrooper population large enough to handle multiple planetary populations to the extent necessary to exert control. However, blowing up whole worlds would probably focus folks' attention wonderfully.

In fact, if I were an Imperial revisionist historian, I would posit that the Alliance command was willing to take the chance that Alderaan would be blown up, nay, even allowed Alderaan to be pulverized, to so galvanize galactic opinion. Just imagine the crazy-as-a-mad-Wookiee image one could draw of Bail Organa, mad enough to sacrifice his entire population for his Forceful religious obsessions...and, of course, Mon Mothma was willing to give up her entire adult life, let alone Alderaan, for the slim hope of being...oops, that storyline's taken, and by the pro's already.

A. G. Steyn: I really like Sithlord Light!

Naw, I don't think the Emp knew who Leia's father really was. The conspirators probably threw up all kinds of smoke around the girl, laid out a veritable carpet of red herrings, etc., to throw him off. Keeping him off the trail is another reason why I think Leia has a much more complicated history to work out than Luke (see above).

Maybe Bail and Mom were already lovers; maybe he was Anakin's main rival; maybe Palpatine saw the child as a way to remind Vader of his former "weaknesses", as in "See what that woman did to you? See how quickly she ran to another man and bred with him? Don't you just love seeing her daughter by that man running around, trying to kick our butts?" The story I'm working on has Mon Mothma and Mom being twins, with MM as Anakin's lover, Mom as Bail's lover and a very nasty power-drunk-jilted-lover-mix-up taking place, leaving all parties vulnerable to taunting by the Emp and

Palpatine thinking he has all kinds of things to hold over people, never suspecting the *really* strange convolutions going on (in this set-up, Luke had to be the one sent away because he took after Dad, while Leia looked enough like Bail to pass as his child).

So, I'll go along with the scenario that posits that, yes, indeed, Leia reminded Vader of earlier, happier days and so received all sorts of contradictory reactions from him, especially once the old juices started flowing and a natural irritation at being so reminded might turn into a sentimental *awww*.

And Tim, Ming—No, I'm not breaking my *no more story outline* promises of last issue; I really am working on this story and have laying about my desk entirely too many disjointed pages to piece together.

I'll close with some paraphrasing. I recently read a review of Alan Bullock's book, HITLER AND STALIN: PARALLEL LIVES in the NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS (4/9/92), that contained quotes from Bullock's books, those of the German historian, Jacob Burckhardt, and editorial commentary that could be applied to Palpatine's rise to and control of power. I'm going to replay parts of it here with the names changed and actions combined (using [...] to see if anyone else thinks it fits...).

"[Palpatine] was driven by an inner force that was more than individual and represented "a mysterious coincidence" between personal egotism and mass will: he spoke both to the yearnings and to the fantasy of his age; he possessed the gift of simplification that makes complicated things seem transparent; he had the feel for power and the fine art of discriminating between its genuine forms and its counterfeits; he was utterly self-confident and walked unafraid above the abyss; and he was, above all, irreplaceable, transforming his world in ways that would have been inconceivable without him."

Even when a boy, [Palpatine] was convinced that he was destined to rule. He was a narcissistic personality in the sense that he was wholly convinced of his own superiority, and enraged and vengeful when his self-image was wounded by others. He had a fixed conviction that he was [a better Force-user than the Jedi].

Remarkable powers were combined in [the Emperor] with an ugly and strident egotism, a moral and intellectual cretinism. The passions which ruled [Palpatine's mind] were ignoble: hatred, resentment, the lust to dominate, and,

where he could not dominate, to destroy. His career did not exalt but debased the sentient condition. He was barren of all ideas save one—the further extension of his own power.

Once in the [Senate, Palpatine] escaped control of his political allies...by means of emergency decrees designed to save the Republic [during the Clone Wars], he had abolished independent organizations like trade [guilds], made effective opposition impossible by the elaboration of the secret police system, disciplined his subjects by purges, and, when the President [of the Senate] died, abolished that office and had all military officers and civil servants swear a solemn oath of allegiance to ["Palpatine, Emperor of the Universe."]

[At this time, Palpatine] silenced dissent for good, insuring his autocratic form of rule, by wiping out what was left, [after the Wars, of the Jedi.]

When he was finished with this, [Palpatine] withdrew from the day-to-day business of government and allowed the development of what has been called a polycratic state of competing party organizations [such as that led by the regional governor, Grand Moff Tarkin], very different from the projected picture of a monolithic, totalitarian state run with mechanical efficiency."

First Timer

Tammy Olsen
Box 153 Benton Road
North Haverhill, NH 03774

July 28, 1992

Hi, everyone. This is my first time writing to SE so I hope this letter isn't too different from the other letters. I haven't been in SW fandom for very long (only a few years) and I am still getting used to writing to zines.

I especially liked issue #32 with the transcript of the discussion at MediaWest. I would have liked to be there but I'm not quite sure what MW is or where it is. Is it like a convention

like the Creation conventions? I have been to two of those but not many come around here. ((Ed:
Eek! Creation and MediaWest mentioned in the same breath!! Actually, Tammy, the two couldn't be less alike. Yes, MWC is a convention—for much of fandom it is THE convention to attend every year. It is a fan-run convention held every Memorial Day weekend in Lansing, Michigan. It is strictly of the fans, by the fans and for the fans. No guest stars, no autograph lines, and darn few professional dealers. Sure there are some, but the ones who come to MWC are generally good folks all around and are fans themselves. It is also THE zine convention and all fandoms are represented—SW, STAR TREK (all versions), DOCTOR WHO, BLAKE'S 7, PROFESSIONALS, BACK TO THE FUTURE, GHOSTBUSTERS, fantasy, sword & sorcery, written sf—you name it. If it exists as a media (generally TV or film), then it can be found at MWC. There's even a sizeable contingent of the Broadway PHANTOM OF THE OPERA fans. But, best of all, MediaWest is a friend/party/good times con. It's often the only time fan friends can actually get together and visit and I've described it to people as more of a family reunion than a convention. If you get there once, you'll be hooked! For more information, send a SASE to Lori Chapek-Carleton, 200 East Thomas St., Lansing, MI 48906.))

I hope Judith Yuenger does that information center that was mentioned. I would love to have the addresses of other fans so I could write them (or maybe meet them).

I saw BLACK MAGIC WOMAN a few weeks ago and I must say it was Different. Mark Hamill's body was definitely generously shown (the best part of the movie).

Z. P. Florian: I loved the fan poll in #31. I think the fan writers are not doing their job (me included!). IMO, Luke should get a smart, not gorgeous but pretty woman who is not Force gifted. I would love to see a story where one of his children was Force blind. I don't think such a handsome man, with a whole galaxy to choose from, is still a virgin, but I do think that he chooses his partners carefully.

There are three issues of Dark Empire out?? None of the comic stores up here carry Dark Horse Comics (not that I've found, anyway). I'm dying here. Does anyone know where I could get them? I'm going to a toy show in August so maybe I'll find them there but I doubt it.

Marti Schuller: Anything. Any stories where Luke gets a girl, any girl, whether he keeps her

or not, would be interesting. Not many people write about Luscious Luke's after dark activities. Though I got a big surprise when I received ANOTHER SKY... #2. Three stories. Yep, that's right. Three had him getting laid...

Lisa Cowan: I don't blame you for the schedule of LFL-FC. It's definitely not your fault. I am disappointed in parts of it (coverage of everything but SW) but that will all change when a new movie is announced. I just got the new issue yesterday and supposedly there will be an interview with George in the next issue concerning the next films. I can't wait.

The Mos Eisley Marketplace in SE is wonderful. It's great to see all the new zines coming out. These places are the only place I can buy them.

Well, I must end this letter now. I need to go pack for the trip that took me four years to save up for—the 1992 Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona!!

May the Force be with you!

SW-ology

Mary Jo Fox
21120 Stonecrop Place
Ashburn, VA 22011

At last, I got SE...now here is my chance to discuss one of my main obsessions, SW-ology! There's been so many interesting points being brought up, I don't know where to begin, but I'll try (no, do!).

The transcript from MW was interesting. You see, I'm one of those people who for many eons had no contact with fandom, until very recently. I was going around for years feeling like the last SW fan in the universe until I finally ordered a fanzine. It was really a revelation for me, to say the least. Now I can't stop!!! I think the problem with fandom is that there are zillions of fans out there, but the vast majority have absolutely nothing to do with sci-fi fandom in general. I stayed out of the scene because of the "geek" reputation that has been unfairly placed upon it. I seriously thought nobody cool would

ever admit to being a fan, so I kept it a secret except to a select few. It wasn't until recently that I discovered that I was wrong. I have just gone to my first con ever and I hope it won't be my last (except if it's a Creation Con). Anyway, getting back to MW, I saw that your panelists are veterans of the fandom scene...most seemed to have been involved with ST or something for a long time before SW came out. I think it would be great if you guys could include people who were children when ANH came out, or people who were first introduced to sci-fi through SW. You see, those of us now aged, say, 15-30, were the *prime* audience Lucas was shooting for when the saga was created, so our impressions run very deep. I mean, it was a huge part of our childhoods. I know you guys will say, "Well, come on out to MW then." Easier said than done, people, but I hope you'll keep what I've had to say in mind.

Okay, enough of that. I missed Z.P.'s poll, but I was intrigued with what people had to say about Luke's sex life. I've read a number of critical essays that describe Luke as "asexual" or something, but I've never thought that could be true. I agree with Marti and Maggie—he'd definitely keep it quiet and selective. But I wish that somewhere down the line he'll find his perfect soulmate in a really hip chick that will understand all of that Jedi mumbo-jumbo. Now, here's a question for y'all to mull over... Was the princess a virgin before she came across that Corellian bad boy? Hmmm....

The idea of putting zines on PCs or faxes sounds cool (we could, in the words of Deee-Lite, "conduct a fax orgy"). Just wait until I can afford them first!

Jacqueline: I thought the Empire kept everyone in line with sheer intimidation and military might. True, such a set-up would be difficult to maintain for a long time, which is why I guess the rebels were able to win. Although, it looks like their victory has become short and sweet. No, you aren't the only one who sees a parallel between the Jedi and Knights Templar (or Cathars, for that matter). I believe the Jedi have been persecuted many times in their long history. It's like they get too powerful, then the ruling class becomes afraid of them, and they get exterminated... well, not completely, but close.

Marti: You're from Lee's Summit? Oh, wow. I know people from there! I went to Mizzou (University of Missouri to the rest of you). I agree with you, babe—I don't think Leia would give up on kids just because of Vader. What would be the

point of that touching romantic bit if it didn't lead to marriage and Jedi babies? Why, it would be...gasp...padding!

A.G.: You crazy anarchist! Your LoC was a trip! I've also wondered why "Palpie" blew off Leia, although she has the Force, too. And she, being a Senator, was like under his nose the whole time, yet he did squat. But now in the Dark Empire comics, "Palpie" calls her "the key to the Future" and he wants to train her. Is this guy fickle, or what? Of course, Vader had to have known who she was. That's why he was always keeping her away from the firing squad or whatever. Lastly, you are spot on about Corellian fever!

Debbie: I read that article in CINEFANTASIQUE, too. Personally, I was peeved! I've never read anything so shrill before in my life. The unfavorable comparisons with Roddenberry and ST were downright cheesy. Comments like that make me want to scream and throw stuff! (I HATE it when Trekkies put SW down!) Boycotting SW stuff ain't gonna do poop. I may be called a heretic for saying this, but I'd rather NOT see new movies than have IFL churn out some flimsy crap disguising itself as SW. I'd have a nervous breakdown if they tossed out something starring say, Julia Roberts and Alec Baldwin with a soundtrack by Metallica. I respect your opinions, Debbie, but I get to differ!

Maggie: You're right about Han in a codpiece (drool, drool); and about Luke's display of emotions. Re the electroshock/sterility thing, just remember Han got zapped in TESB and apparently everything is groovy in spite of it (see HEIR TO THE EMPIRE). Your theory on the Force was thought-provoking as well as your outline on a very different version of the saga.

Catriona: God, I hope that story on Macauley was false! I would just puke!

Okay, now for something completely different. I loved DARK FORCE RISING. It was very nicely done. You can read the review in HIBERNATION SICKNESS (I hope). I also wrote a review of the kiddie series for HS. The comic book series is beautiful! I will be so sad when it's over. I was one of those fans that rejoiced when Luke bowed to the Emperor and started to look demonic. I loved it in #4 when he treats his friends wretchedly, especially Han. Luke is so sexy when he's being "dark" (so sue me, I'm a gothic girl). I also love the tension between Leia and Han's ex-girlfriend, as well as the idea of an old female Jedi guiding Leia. It sort of reminds me of those

matriarchal myths. I could go on forever. I'll most likely write a review of the whole series when #6 comes out.

If there are *any* people out there who are also passionate about underground/alternative music, PLEASE contact me. Even if you think the Sisters of Mercy are a bunch of nuns or that New Order is just another name for the Empire, that's okay. I'd dig hearing from you, too. Double goes for any SW fan in the D.C. area. (I live by Dulles Airport.)

Well, it was nice talking to you. Just remember, Luke wears black on the outside because he feels black on the inside, and Corellians make better lovers!

Overtime Queen

Jennifer Moore
1204 S. Washington St. #301W
Alexandria, VA 22314

August 6, 1992

Now that the office overtime queen has ended her reign, she can now write a longer letter to SE. Hooray! Most of all, thanks go to Cheree and Judy for their hard work on the Star Awards. ((*Ed: Thanks go to Judy, Z. P., and Arwen Rosenbaum! I didn't do nothing!*)) Now, on to the comments/conversations...

Jacqueline: Hey, I really liked your letter on the question of how the Empire maintains the control of its citizens—it got me to thinking. My first reaction was this: in order to monitor the movements of citizens from planet to planet, the Empire must have a vast network of informants. A being like the one who followed our heroes to the docking bays in ANH could probably earn a hefty paycheck keeping an eye on the action. It would be interesting to see what kind of control the Empire, or even better, if the Empire maintains control over its informants by making such a job prestigious. Secondly, in dealing with the communication problem, the Empire would have one advantage—with so much technology available, the amount of information would grow along with it.

In short, the average citizen doesn't know what to believe after being bombarded with so much info.

Matthew, Michelle, Catherine, Debbie, and Maggie: Agreed with your comments about the INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES. An excellent show! The show really grabbed my attention when the writers dealt with WWI. I enjoy reading military history. Another aspect of the show I liked was the similarity between young Indy and Han. I could easily imagine Han joining the military in just the same way. Also the writing improved with each show.

Cheryl: Greetings! Enjoyed seeing you at MWC! An orange flight suit? Hey, that's an idea, but, I'm going to have to find a good costumer 'cause I sew a hem worth beans and not much more than that. Good point about Ben—Luke being the last Jedi does give the saga more meaning. But who's Brother Cadfael?

A.G.: Had fun reading your comments! I agree with your basic point about what would happen had Ben survived. But, let me leave you with this question: referring to Cheree's and Jacqueline's and Debbie's comments on Ben, is he that Machiavellian that, with his knowledge of SW's events, he would manipulate Luke in an underhanded way? In short, becoming like his enemy (Vader) to defeat his enemy? Or did he sacrifice himself so Luke would be motivated to defeat Vader? So get out of the office and get that brain going! (Something I should do.)

Nora, Lisa and Tim: Sounds like everybody agrees on Creation. After chatting with various dealers and the like at some cons, I learned that they dislike Creation; but, more importantly, I learned a little about Creation's business practices. It seems to be that the established cons are safe. Whenever Creation has tried to break into an area that has an established con, such as MWC or Shore Leave, they haven't done as well. So, they concentrate on areas that are less active in fandom. Either I missed it or it wasn't scheduled at Shore Leave, but I didn't go to any panels discussing Creation. Thank goodness. It seems the hysteria has died down. Hopefully, it's just a tempest in a teapot.

Marti, Debbie: Thank you for the kind words of encouragement. Things are going slowly but surely. I'm starting out small. I modestly point out my contribution in the comment below. To be honest, I'm starting to like this writing stuff! I can see why it's so much fun for you ladies. Thanks again, and thanks to everyone else for their encouragement as well.

Ming: Last, but definitely not least! Thank you for managing to squeeze my poem in under the wire! I'm definitely into this zine stuff now. Discussing writing and other aspects of fandom with you and others, I'm certainly going to learn a lot. I'm looking forward to it.

Don't want to bog poor Cheree down with all this typing so I'll sign off. Hope the job is going well for you, Cheree. Welcome, Catriona! Nice to meet you. This sports-junkie is going to sign off this time so I don't have to keep typing and watching the Olympics at the same time. Fly casual, folks!

Luke Romances

Catriona Campbell
19 Eastern Crescent
Kilbirmie, Ayrshire KA25 6JH
Scotland

August 12, 1992

Pew! Can you people talk!! My head is spinning with all the different ideas, topics, ifs, whys and whats—it's great!!

First, Cheree, my condolences on the loss of your dog. I know how it feels to have lost a good friend like that. However, I also know the joy a new pup can bring! I hope Wolf is settling in okay.

MediaWest sounded like a blast! You have no idea how envious I am of you all. Here I am stuck on the dark side of Tatooine (only greener and a little more wet!) dreaming of the day I can jet off and discover places afar (boy, do I know how Luke felt!). I'll make it eventually.

The photos were interesting. Now I can put faces to all those names I've heard about and read about.

Z. P. Florian: I've managed to get my sticky paws on issues 1, 2 and 4 of the Dark Empire comics (can't seem to find #3; shops keep telling me they're sold out—WHERE are all these SW fans when I need them?). I did just about faint when Luke knelt before the Emperor. I almost felt like

I was watching ROTJ when Luke beats Vader to the floor: most of me is saying, "No, Luke, don't!" But then there's my shadowier side saying, "Yeah! Go, baby, go!" But we all know it's an elaborate ruse—don't we? 'Sides, I think Luke's too noble to ever kneel to Palpatine.

The comics are STUNNING! Fabulous art—especially the covers (#2 was a knockout!). Story is extremely interesting and it has me hooked.

Grammar! Egads! Not my strong suit—though back in secondary (high) school, my English teacher, who's now a published author, told me my grammar wasn't exactly wrong—just rather *strange*! My mother checks my stories before I submit them and drives me nuts: "Aw, Mom! It sounds better that way!"

Jacqueline Taero: In answer to your question (can anyone come up with a valid reason why the Empire as we know it should even exist?)—um, no! Some interesting points, though. However, I'm going to duck out of tackling this one by saying, "I don't think Mr. Lucas thought of that!"

Vader's face cheated the audience? I remember being enormously relieved when I saw Vader unmasked! You see, I had been expecting to see Dave Prowse under the costume. I don't have anything against the guy, but in those long ago days, he was extremely well known in Britain as "The Green Cross Code Man" (Green Cross Code was a way of teaching kids how to cross roads safely). I mean, here we have thousands (if not millions) of British kids seeing this supreme baddie being unmasked and...it's the Green Cross Code Man! It would have been a real anti-climax, if not a laughing stock!

Okay, perhaps Anakin wasn't what most had anticipated, but I remain quite happy with him!

Luke romances: This has been touched on in a few of the letters, so I guess I'll make most of my comments here. I think fear is the major reason Luke isn't getting the girl in fan stories anymore. Not Luke's own fear—but the writers' fear. I started writing stories before I learned of zines and fandom and everything which goes along with it. Then I learned of the dreaded "Mary Sue" category, which Marti had to explain to me and basically that was the end of *all* my Luke romance ideas! I didn't want to be accused of fulfilling private fantasies by putting myself into my stories and having a romance with Luke. (The way I see it, ANY original female character who shows the least bit of interest in Luke will be shot down as a "Mary Sue".) Since then, every time I come up with a story with original charac-

ters, I always make sure there's no, or very few, females in it.

I hope someone will tell me I'm wrong. But, those are my reasons for no longer giving Luke a girl.

Kenobi dull? Never!!

Marti: Not photogenic? Nonsense, woman! You take a good picture! (Cheree: You want photos? Thank the Force I don't have any recent ones!) ((Ed: Okay, but I still want short bios for the Crew Roster! Why isn't anyone sending me anything—with or without photos???)

Quite liked your ideas on Luke romances! Why have you never shared this with me before? (Or, did you, and have I just forgotten?) As for satisfying reading: I think it would depend on how the story was handled, don't you?

Lisa Cowan: Uncle Fester! I LOVE it!

Also, thanks again for your letter giving me the addresses for the Scottish SW fans and for setting me straight on Macauley Culkin—as I said, I've no idea where the BBC got that information.

Cheryl Pryor: But Luke did have a "real point" he passed where he could say, "Now I am a Jedi". And, he did so in ROTJ after defeating his own darkness, though not using those words.

I agree Luke's "order" will bare little resemblance to the "old" order—good job, too, I say.

DNA scan on trooper armor! I like it! My thoughts on how Vader discovered his son are similar to yours, in that I also think it was AFTER the Death Star. I think he found out about Luke through established channels, i.e., a report on the incidents on Tatooine would have been submitted, detailing all the participants. Luke would be in that report!

Also, there could have been some kind of recording equipment in Leia's cell, and when Luke ran in he not only announced himself to Leia but to his father, too. Then, note Ben's wee glance over at the escaping group just before being killed. I believe he was looking at Luke—I also think Vader would have followed that glance (it's automatic when someone looks at something for you to follow their gaze). His first sight of his son.

Anyway, whenever he discovered Luke's existence, it would have been one hell of a shock! I would love to have seen the look on the old scoundrel's face!

Tim Blaes: I agree the best place for movies is the theater. Though I have to admit to rather liking the "wide screen" (letterbox) editions of the saga and other movies. Picture is small but

you do get the "whole" movie and not half a face here and there!

A. G. Steyn: Quarter page illos for "Missing"? (Re: your comments to Z. P. Florian re: Catherine Churko). Can someone explain?

I can't help feeling that you have it in for poor old Kenobi! Is this the general consensus of most of you? I'll admit that perhaps his judgments concerning Luke's safety and protection were perhaps wrong. But, surely he, and Yoda, were only acting in "the best interests of the child". (I know from painful experience that adults often make the wrong choices for children—I am a Residential Social Worker and work in a children's home, and although all the decisions we make as a staff group are in what we believe to be the kids' best interests, we can be wrong). I concede there was also their wish to continue the Jedi knighthood through the twins and hence this would also have bearing on their choices for the children. But still, can Kenobi be so condemned? He's merely shown that he's a fallible human being—what's so wrong with that?

Surely Owen must take some of the blame! The way I understand it, it was he who banned Kenobi from the farm, and banned all mention of Luke's father besides a fairy story about Anakin being a navigator. For all we know, he could be the one who didn't want Luke to know his real parentage. Perhaps he thought he could keep hold of Luke and not lose him as he thought Anakin was lost. I can understand his fear from personal experience (with myself in Luke's place). He loves Luke. So, okay, he's gruff, he's not an emotional man. But, that doesn't mean he doesn't love his nephew. I think he was scared he was going to lose the boy he loved and raised—as simple as that. To all intents and purposes, he was Luke's true father!

It's also easy to become lost in a lie to the point where the truth is too hard to face. Can you imagine what could have happened had they told Luke as he was growing up? What a terrible burden for a child to carry! When WAS the right time to tell Luke?

Maybe "blame" isn't the correct word to use. They made the wrong choices and I think Luke would understand that, and understand their motives for those choices.

Thank you for your kind words about "Missing". Bruisie/mendie? Yeah, I guess so. Have pity, I finished the thing around the time I first discovered zines, and hadn't met the categories of "hurt/comfort" and "Mary Sue". 'Sides—I had FUN! (Cheree: "Missing" is in WOOKIEE COMMODE

6 & 7.)

Who said NO ONE knew Vader was Luke's father while they were shooting TESB? Okay, maybe they had secret scripts which the actors didn't see until just prior to shooting the scene, but the shocking truth didn't surprise me 'cos I already knew! (I remember playing SW with my friends just after seeing the movie—we were only kids. I said, "Let's pretend Vader's Luke's dad." Or words to that effect. Well, I got laughed at. I have witnesses who remember the game! THEN: in the British version of the SW comic (issue 50, January 1979), they ran an article on SW2 in which they said, and I quote: "At one time, a Star Wars actor told us that the secret of Darth Vader, then intended to be announced in the second movie, was quite simply that, beneath the mask, Darth actually was Luke's father! But though this would have led to an interesting conflict, father vs son, it seems the idea has now been dropped."

"Like hell!" I thought. It was TOO good a plot twist to just chuck in the trash! I wonder who the actor was?

Michelle Malkin: Re Luke commenting that Dagobah felt familiar, "I feel like..." What was he going to say before Yoda interrupted? I think you're right! I think he'd been there as an infant. Or, perhaps it was just the natural essence of the Force around the place that made it familiar. OR, perhaps Luke is the reincarnation of another Jedi knight who'd trained on Dagobah! (Humm, could have some fun with that!) Or, perhaps it is a racial memory peeking through his genes. Or, perhaps it was just plain, unexplained "deja vu". Or, perhaps something completely different.

Debbie Kittle: I got even MORE depressed about the future of the saga after reading your quotes from CINEFANTASTIQUE. If Lucas doesn't care anymore, or is fed up with the saga (and I can understand that!), why can't he just turn the whole thing over to someone who does? It's very sad as his galaxy is so wonderful!

Maggie Nowakowska: Re Indy's dad having a Scots accent but Welsh name. Yeah, Jones is primarily a Welsh name, but there are thousands of Joneses in Scotland who call themselves Scottish and whose families have lived here for generations (like the millions of Americans whose roots are in other parts of the world, but still call themselves American). Henry's manner is so typical of a Scottish father his age (I'm talking above the movie—we haven't had the young Indy series here yet)—actually very much like my own

father, at times. I just adored Sean Connery's performance. He's one of the best things to come out of this country in the last few decades!

I have to agree on your assessment of Luke and his reactions with the heavy emotions. I am also one of those "quieter is safer" people. My interests were never truly understood (my father was rather derogative towards the saga, but he's learned to live with my madness), my family are not demonstrative, we do not hug and kiss, my parents have never told me they love me (I KNOW they do, they prove it to me every day). I am uncomfortable around "open" emotion. Not as uncomfortable as I used to be—I remember my student exchange to Iowa State University; I had to attend several dinners and all these people were HUGGING me! I thought, "What is this! These people are touching me!" But those four months at ISU taught me to accept other peoples' affection toward me. Also working with kids every day has made me more open.

I guess what I'm saying is that I understand fully what you were saying. Luke's love for anyone runs deep, which I prefer in a person. You summed him up beautifully.

Beru being mom's sister! I've played around with that for a while. I've also used it in a story or two. It makes sense to me.

I loved your "alternate" story outline! Why stop at No. 14? I was really getting engrossed in it! Can you pick it up again? If not, then can someone else?

Cheree: THREE different versions? I've seen the scene you were referring to (searching for the tractor beam locations), but the one where 3PO narrates is on what I've come to call the "Blast it, Wedge" version. Interesting, though—I wonder how they came about and if there are any more.

Hey, this has been fun!



Debbie Kittle
11521 Idlewood Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20906

August 24, 1992

Hello everyone! First off, I just want to say: I had a really wonderfully excellent time at my very first MW (who wouldn't with roomies like Judy and Ming!). The panels were really good, a lot of beautiful art (I broke down and bought one of the blue firelizards), beautiful costumes, and a lot of zines to decide on. But the best part was finally putting faces to names. There was so much to see and do, that I didn't get to do all that I wanted. And the Star awards were a big success as well as a lot of fun. My congrats to all the winners and a big hand for Judy for putting it all together. I hope everyone who reads SE will vote for 1992!

I just got the very latest issue of the LFL Club newsletter. It seems that in the very next issue, there will be an exclusive interview with the Man himself on the future of SW- when/where/how/why etc. I'll be very interested in what he has to say but I'll take it with a ton of salt. I'm not sure I can fully trust what he has to say about anything right now. I'll wait til I'm in line...

Well, what's the verdict for DARK FORCE RISING? I enjoyed it and felt it had a lot more to offer in the way of action/adventure. I look forward to the last installment.

The first 3 children's books are out now, too. I've enjoyed the cover art and illustrations inside. Some very nice work but the stories! The way the authors portrayed Han was ridiculous. After all the things he and Leia had been through together, he up and leaves her. Maybe it's his evil twin!

DARK EMPIRE 4 was interesting—Boba Fett alive and well. Dark Horse Comics is reprinting issues 1-3 for any of you that missed them the first time out. They should be out there by the end of August. I heard from my local comic shop that the first issue is now selling for \$9 as opposed to the cover price of \$2.95. #5 was interesting. The Emperor now has a new and younger body. I'm interested to see how they'll do the last issue. There is to be another 6 issue series sometime in 1993.

Cheree: Very sorry to hear about Thor. It's never easy to lose a member of the family. At one point I had to do that with my 4 cats within an

8 month period. After the last one, I thought I shouldn't get anymore, it's just too painful. However, once you are blessed with the companionship of a pet, the house is rather lonely without them. A stray came into my life very soon after the last one and that was 5 years ago. Now I have 2 of them and they are a joy. Good luck with Wolf!

Z.P.: It was good to see you at MW!

Jacqueline: My reason may not be valid but perhaps practical. I'm not much into political things, but with all the political intrigue (spies/theft of nat'l and internat'l secrets), how can any one gov't continue to survive? False ID's are probably easy to come by with the right connections and money as with most criminals while shipping in and out of port is dependent on how creative you are. Getting lost in the shuffle in such a Big Galaxy seems easy, bribes are probably a mainstay for most officials.

I had always wondered about R2's ability to 'access classified information'. Could R2 have special modifications? Could R2 have been an Imp droid many years ago and was stolen/acquired by the Rebels? It would almost seem to be something special because if all astromech droids could do that, then the Empire should've fallen or not even gotten started.

Ming: Oh, most definitely Leia should have in her brain a list of people/planets where she could find refuge in difficult times.

Marti: How's the weather been? I hope it's been steamy, broiling, hot, etc. Actually here, it hasn't been that bad at all, much better than last year. Not near as many over 90 degree days and now Fall is just around the corner. Of course, it's snowing in Montana now. That's disgusting!

Yes, I had a great time at MW as you can tell from my opening paragraph.

I hope to see your pic and bio in the crew roster REAL soon!!

I agree with you and Cheree: LoC! Even if you can't dissect each and every story, at least write a few lines to say how you liked/didn't like the zine. Whatever you can write would be appreciated. I loved "Enemy" in ANOTHER SKY...?

Lisa: Welcome to SE! Glad to see you here, too. I'd also recommend the SW Collector's Trading Post. It's a nice little newsletter.

Perhaps the comics were allowed to bring back the Emperor because in the last issue he will die by Luke's or someone else's hand. Of course, Boba is alive and well now. Dark Horse is saying there

will be more than the original 6.

Cheryl: Hello there, neighbor! I'm working on that costume.

I think the only reason Darthie began searching was due to the strong Force potential he had sensed. Now that OWK was gone, he was the only one left or so he thought. I'm sure Luke went on several missions for the Alliance between ANH and ESB where his name and/or face began to come to the attention of others.

If the cell where Leia was being held was being monitored (I would anticipate that it would be), it's possible that he found out that way but since the DS was destroyed, that information was probably destroyed with the battlestation. Unless, it was beamed back to the EXECUTOR but doubtful, IMO.

I don't think DV knew of Luke 'til it was brought to his attention via old fashioned foot-work/hearing the monitor tape (if it did survive), etc. or otherwise he would've swooped down like a mynock to an exposed powercable and to Hell with anyone who got in his way. He would've wanted to train Luke ASAP, probably in secret. Look at the lengths he went to in ESB to get him.

I like the idea re: DNA scan on the armor but I also think that went up with the DS. It was a good thought.

Tim: There are still plenty of things Anne McCaffrey can do with Pern and I hope she does.

Matthew: I have heard Anne's reading on ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN. I shed a few more tears. Very emotional.

I liked your comments re: Tatooine.

Mickey: I do think Luke spent some small amount of time on Dagobah when he was smaller or at least had some dreams about the place.

Cheree: I love those old sci-fi movies. My favorite is any Godzilla movies. With the Sci-Fi channel starting in September, I'll be in heaven. Am thrilled that my cable company will be carrying it. Here are some of the things they're listing as a promo: Buck Rogers, Dr. Who, Space 1999, Flash Gordon (both new and old!), Stingray, Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, Amazing Stories, Night Gallery, Incredible Hulk, Lost in Space, Spider-man, Dark Room, Invisible Man, Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Probe, BG, The Prisoner, The Abyss, Night Stalker, ST cartoons and the movies, Capt. Scarlett vs. the Mysterions, Dark Shadows, Robinson Crusoe on Mars, The Invaders, One Step Beyond, Bionic Man and Woman, My Secret Identity, Suspense Theater, Gemini Man, Misfits of Science, The Skull, Colossus of NY, Otherworld, Voyagers,

Defenders of Earth, Alien, Alien Nation, Man without a Body, Space Children, Conquest of Space and of course, it will open on 9/24 with SW:ANH which is only fitting. Some of those shows I've never heard of before and am looking forward to becoming a couch potato(e)!!

A.G.: Glad you're recovering. Maybe Palpie only trained Vadie because he didn't want too many threats to his position and his life. If he trained 1,000 Siths and a few of them decided to overthrow him, it could get messy. A man in his position had to be careful.

Now, who says that Yoda's pupils were so obviously badly prepared? I doubt they even thought of getting wiped out by one of their own. I think Palpie scored a 1-2-3 knock out on the Jedi, on the Old Republic and on the Galaxy. Then he killed any possible Force users who turned up to be sure he'd be safe. I'm sure you're familiar with the phrase: If it were a snake, it would've bit you (referring to the fact that when you're looking for something and it's right in front of your face).

He seemed to be able to see the future, seemingly better than Yoda (or at least interpreting it) and probably used that as a major guide.

I love Corelok/Ewollian!

Leia was scheduled for termination on DS 1. DV only intervened for a short time. He didn't want to be bothered with her as she was a pain in his armor-encased backside at the very least. He had other more important things like finding those DS plans. Now why he didn't do it on Cloud City—he was using them for bait to trap his son. Again he was distracted, he just wanted Luke to come to CC. Realizing killing Leia might not get the results he needed (sending Luke over the edge one way or the other), he probably wanted to make an example of her in front of the Alliance and not on some out of the way planet in the Anoat system. Even with Alderaan gone and a possibility of Luke joining DV, Leia is still a major figurehead for the Alliance and thus a driving "force" for the movement.

If there was ever a hint of who Leia was or her ability as a Force user, I'm sure she would've been taken long ago.

Vadie may have sounded like a proud father, but I think he just knew Leia very well (in dealing with her and Bail on Alderaan and in the Senate) and knew the determination/stubbornness the Alliance resistance showed.

Vadie would have to be a good actor in reference to Leia as Luke's sister but no, I feel he

was genuinely surprised.

Re: Force-users: If anyone were to use the Force for murder, stealing, etc., then yes, a definite DarkSider. Han only kills to protect himself, Chewie and his ship; he's not a bad person, he just does things to survive.

I think it would be interesting to see what Han would do if he did have the Force. He disavows it as we see yet, I think if he did have it, there's a chance (I think most people would be tempted to use it for less than honest things at one time or another) that Han would test the waters here and there but I definitely feel that would be the extent of it.

Treena: Welcome to SE! Glad to see you here.

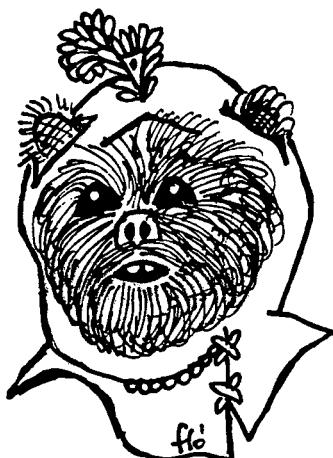
Maggie: I loved your outline.

A few last tidbits: PATRIOT GAMES was an excellent movie. Harrison was fantastic and the next installment of Clancy's movie CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER is all set to film with Harrison and Anne Archer.

The ST exhibit at the Air and Space museum has been extended to January 1993 for any of you that want to make it there. I'm glad they did because I wouldn't have been able to make it again with my schedule. I've got plans to go on Nov. 8th with Cheryl Pryor and Lin Ward (hi, Lin!) if any are interested and are close by, just drop me a line.

Well, I got great news last week. The Hamilton Plate people have just issued a ANH anniversary plate and is it gorgeous. They have plans to do a movie plate trilogy. Their address is: The Hamilton Collection, 4810 Executive Park Ct., PO Box 2567, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0008. It might be too late to order the first one but hopefully you can get into the other two.

Thanks, Tim, for the pics and the panel discussion; though I was there, it was nice to go over it again. Til next issue, Fly Casually In The Force!



A. G. Steyn
Paul-Ruecker-St. 69
W-4100 Duisburg 1
Germany

July 29, 1992

Just because I'm paranoid doesn't mean they're not after me!

Admit it: an overused expression is a great way to start an insipid LoC.

Where do I start (anyun' 'round heah seen m' brains lately?)...? OK, first:

Cheree: On the personal side. Fired from the job, huh? Well, there's nothing quite like it to boost your ego. I know what I'm talking about here. I've been through this, too. Don't feel bad, though. At least you can be sure it wasn't because you blundered or laid down on the job. And the boss who fired you got fired herself? See, there IS justice in this galaxy. Not always evident, but it's there. Or, to put it in German: "Kleine Sünden bestraf't der liebe Goot sofort." [The good Lord punishes immediately for little sins.]

The loss of a good dog is much harder to overcome. After our family dog died, my folks never wanted another one. Mom still can't talk about ole "Tobby" for any length of time before her eyes start watering. Mind you, that darling fuzzball passed away in December 1959! 33 years—and still unforgotten. Goes to show how much you can get attached to a canine (or other animal). I hope your new shep will bring enough fun and excitement to your home to help you all overcome the grief and empty feelings.

Do you cruel people out there always have to rub my nose through what fun you all had at MediaWest, while I had to stay here and work?? I hate you, folks. Darthie—go for their throats!

Talking MediaWest and Darthie...if the "Galactic Wardrobe" makes it to next year's con—what's he going to do there? Teach the gang the ways of the Force? Hold a panel on "How to punish misbehaving children"? Join the blaster battle? Hey—you SHOULD get Hamill to come at the same time. But don't tell either of your guests about "the other Skywalker". I want to see the looks on their faces (if possible...you gotta take that mask off, Darthie!).

You know what? You people ought to invite ole Saint George—then we can ALL IN UNISON get on his case and settle matters once and for all. Who knows—Georgie may find that finds are

actually NICE FOLKS and that fandoms and fan organized cons can be great fun. Be adventurous, Lucas. If you're afraid to hit MediaWest all by your lonesome, you are heartily invited to bring Steven and Harrison along for moral support. (And the accompaniment of the latter one will guarantee you a leisurely time...60% of the gals will go after "Indiana Solo" and you will go *almost* unmolested).

And now [flourish, please, maestro!]: On to the LoCs of everybody.

Judith Yuenger: There is a magazine here in Germany (a movie zine called KINO (Cinema)) where you can place a short ad (5 lines max. with 35 letters per line) for FREE. I took the audacity to place a little ad in the zine (should be out within the next two months) calling SW fans to take up contact with you—so you can complete your fan list. Hope that's okay with you. If not, sic Darthie on me.

Z. P. Florian: Should-would-could-might... ahhhh! Quit that. This is worse than the dark side of the Force and the IRS together. In case of questions regarding proper English: ask the Vice President. (Rumor has it that he took over "Irish Spud Murphy's" boxing gym in downtown San Diego and renamed it "White House Potatoe Quayle's"...but I guess that's just rumor.)

Going for "the Churko's" throat for not publishing the much talked about pix? Wait for me. I'll join ya.

Your answer to Ming: Ahh--editing. What a fun thing to talk about (who says sarcasm is unbecoming?). Now, I agree 150% with you on having an English speaking person dissect my stories grammarwise. It would be a great asset. So I heartily invite my publishers to pick up the red pen and ruler and correct all my errors. Thanks in advance. Unfortunately, some editors go overboard and not only correct obvious errors in spelling, grammar, etc. *Without even asking the author's permission*, they will add/remove/alter expressions/lines/sentences...even whole passages from stories submitted to them. And this is something I simply cannot/will not accept or even try to understand. It doesn't only bug me that my own works undergo such *unauthorized* changes, but I'm miffed that some editors don't even allow me to form my own opinion about what *other writers* turn out (since: what happens to my stories happens most probably to other writers' stories, too). I don't want to read revised, edited stories. If I want something like that, I might as well get myself a copy of the "Pravda"

or any other publication from a country that censors everything in print. Is the editor of a zine automatically entitled to re-work a story he/she thinks lacks "finesse", "needs some polishing", etc.? Is it common practice for an editor to decide: I don't see hero "X" doing this—or hero "Y" talking like that...and so re-phrase expressions chosen by the author or alter the plot? I just don't believe that professional editors would dare to rework the brain-children of professional authors without having at least a lengthy discussion with the writer in question. Imagine a lover of Barbara Cartland-type literature "editing" (fanzone style) stories by Henry Miller or Charles Wambaugh. What fun! ["He went ***bleep*** to ***bleep***, saying, "***bleep***"]

Another thing that never ceases to amaze me is just how much "no-no's" we heap on our heads by setting up publishing rules the likes of:

—No "/" (not even in its MILDEST form, leave alone explicit);

—No gratuitous sex/porn (see above);

—No gratuitous violence (at the same time turning out "bruisie/mendie" stories as if they were going out of style...kind of hard to explain);

—No stories centering around hero "X" (or "Y" or "Z");

—No slapstick;

—No alternate universe stories;

—No plots that will make hero(ine) "X" ("Y", "Z") appear in unfavorable light;

—No stories taking place before/after a certain given date (in SW: before ANH, after ROTJ, etc.);

and so on. HELP! With all these restrictions, it's a sheer wonder we still are able to come up with any stories at all. But: just how long can we keep coming up with fresh ideas and avoid getting caught in a treadmill, repeating ourselves over and over again like Tibetan prayer mills, if we cling to all the set regulations? Don't get me wrong: *I'm not trying to push the fandom into the gutter*. But I'd rather take a stroll through the local sewer than ride the carousel until I get so dizzy from going round and round that I have to "pull a Daniel Boone". A little less restrictiveness, a bit more of a *casual* approach, a bit more "audacity" to try to venture off the beaten path...any takers out there? Naw...we don't have to go "all the way" here. I don't want to wallow in SMUT. But it could be a nice chance to finally have a Luke with humor, a truly "streetwise" Han (after all: he IS one of the "galaxy's most want-

ed"), an insecure Leia with honest human feelings, a Chewie who forgets about his manners and behayes, for once, like a true wild Wookiee...and so on. Where are the daring authors to compile such outrageous plots? Where are the unfearing editors willing to publish such boldness?

Geez—who am I talking to here? Z.P., I know I'm forging open doors addressing you with this. After all, you'd be the FIRST to try. And that shall be my consoloation: I will not be the only one who get's stoned to death by the rest of the SW gang. There is another...

And now that I successfully made everyone in this universe ravin' mad: on with the LoCs...

Ah, Z.P.—you like Corellian customs, etc. You probably won't—after I finish writing my Han-story taking place in the guy's early years. And no: there will most probably be no publishers willing to deal with that piece of literary garbage.

Jacqueline Taero: Sweet Lords of Corellia ...another one of those forsaken "Use your brains" LoCs.

Travel documents: There comes to mind the scene (ANH) in which Ben "mindbends" the Imp trooper who inquires about the droids and obviously is about to ask for all kinds of papers when our heroes try to get into Mos Eisley. From this incident, I take it that you need a BUNCH of papers to get around Tatooine legally—unless you are a Jedi and can read minds and suggest your will to others. Luke obviously didn't have any papers (those he might have had will probably have fallen victim to the flames when the Lars home-stead burned down), and was more relieved when Ben talked the trooper out of this "I need to see your ID card" biz.

Of course, would Han have been supposed to submit a passenger/cargo list—but since Han is a criminal and generally disobeys orders (especially those given by the Empire), blasting in/out of Mos Eisley without the consent of the Imps was a natural thing to do. Another possibility: Jabba—being the "Godfather" of the system—had his mafiosi paws in all governmental issues and blackmailed the Empire to allow his "suppliers" unrestricted landings/take-offs on Tatooine. How does a gov'ment prevent its population from going wherever it wishes when we are speaking of space travel and entire planets? Hmm, just see what happens here on this planet. People pretty much go where they want—their gov'ments approving or not. Even with the extremely well guarded German/German border still intact, some folks managed to

get out of the country. If a totalitarian government proves unable to keep the population from leaving (or spies from seeping in through various pores)—then how should it prevent travelling between planets? And don't throw "logic" in for an argument. Gov'ments don't need to be logical. Show me a politician who makes logic decisions and I'll show you a flying kitchen table.

One policy of the Empire could be to show up unexpectedly with a whole armada of ships and troops and "raid" a planet, taking people whom they suspect being in political opposition to the Empire in custody and locking them up in labor colonies, etc. Parallels here on Earth: the Soviet Union and her much-feared Siberian labor camps, Nazi Germany and the concentration camps, the tactics/practices of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia and the "Luminous Path" in Peru...and assorted other communist/fascist organizations. Never to know when or where the government will strike and what's going to happen then is extremely frightening and intimidates most common folks enough to make this form of "law and order" effective and popular with totalitarian rulers.

Communications is a BIG problem. One possibility (and I just look at Iraq here): people do have access to outside information (no matter how limited), but tend to believe their official news-media and what their "leader" tells them. Just how many people are there on the various populated planets and moons of the SW saga who actually think the Emperor is doing a great job? Who think that the Rebel Alliance ought to be wiped off the face of the galaxy? Very often, totalitarian governments have a way of making certain parts of the population feel important and needed. Take an unemployed father of 10 kids off the streets, give him a job (and if it's nothing better than digging trenches alongside the roads)—and see whom he'll vote for. Give underprivileged children meaningful ways to spend their time by means of youth organizations, for instance—and your next generation of voters will be granted. As the old proverb says: "Wess' Brot ich ess, dess' Lied ich sing." (Whose bread I eat whose song I sing.)

And that leads to another fact (as can be observed looking back at the political practices of the German Democratic Republic): If you do not know exactly about the political standpoint of your neighbor (his true standpoint, not the one he might try to sell you on), you become wary. Nobody will trust his fellow man. One slip of the

tongue—and next thing you know, you might find yourself in jail for the next 20 or so years. Being afraid to speak out what one thinks, unable to find like-minded people to form a conspiracy with, oppressed people will fall into political lethargy. Better to comply than to die!

Oh, gosh—another "presidential campaign speech"—shut up, Steyn.

Miscellany: Yes, the Knights Templar—plus tiny tidbits of the Samurai, the Black SS (both together reminiscent of the Sith), the rise/fall of the Roman Empire...it's all there. Fascinating! (Allow me to raise an eyebrow when I say that word, but spare me the ears.)

Ming Wathne: Like the idea of Leia having a couple of bolt holes available for her to make a quick escape.

Hey—southpaw. I'm right-handed...and use my mouse with the left (most of the time, anyway). And tell your teacher to stuff a sock in it... [And this, Mary U., was the cue for you to answer: "No, AG—that's the swimsuit competition." Ah—sweet memories...!]

Han in a tiny loin wrap? Who says we're not heading in the right direction??? Keep it up, ole buddy. Z.P. and I will huddle together and make room for one more misfit here in the gutter. Welcome!

Marti Schuller: Your answer to Z.P.: Right. Longterm commitments or shorter affairs with intimate friends are usually not exciting enough to write about. One solution could be to write about Tatooine Luke (the first adventures, so to speak). Or his fantasies/dreams of sexual adventures he would love to have but doesn't dare attempt to turn into reality. He's a healthy young man with—at least so I assume—healthy, normal wishes/needs. A zillion things can happen...

Lisa Cowan: By now you have received a personal letter from moi! (All your own fault. Quit complaining.) Yes, there are active SW clubs (one or two) and a bunch of fans in Germany. Fanzines ...now, that's a different story. There is ONE (a digest sized thingie called "Journal of the Whills"), but the stories in there (few and far between) are (excuse me, but I have to articulate my feelings openly) banthradroppings/nerfexcrements (bullshit!). I guess most German fans don't even know that there is something in existence called Fanzine, much less get up the nerve to write LoCs and stories for them—in English. Mostly they think their language skills are not sufficient to join the writing side of the fandom. What a pity.

The "Mary Sue" definition is priceless! And no, you didn't hear it from me—altho' such a grubby little sidenote could well have sprung from my sick mind. And Dark Horse Comics can bring back Uncle Palpie because that guy's one tough cookie and: Unkraut vergeht nicht! (Weeds never perish.)

Cheryl Pryor: Yoda the Munchkin? I love it. Beru as Glinda and Darthie as the Wicked Witch? Someone do me a favor and WRITE that outrageous satire version of THE WIZARD OF OZ in the same way as the infamous "Princess and the Pea" bit that appeared in WC. I'm in dire need of some great fun and reasons to laugh.

Any other fairytales/fables/legends related to SW? There are a few ancient fairytales over here that seem at least partially fitting. Luke could have the lead in "Von Einem der auszog, das Fürchten zu lernen" (Of someone who set out to learn about fear) and Han and Leia are perfect for "Die Prinzessin und der Schweinehirt" (the princess and the swine herder). There are also glimpses of "Snow White"—only that this time it's not the princess sleeping in a glass casket, but a pirate in a block of carbonite. And what about Disney's SWORD IN THE STONE? A scrawny blond boy, an old graybearded wizard, a magic sword... Arnie as Anakin? What kind of bug bit ya, hon? Not the "Steirische Eiche" (Styrian Oaktree)—with that Austrian accent and the elastic movements of a dustbin? Jeepers. His size and muscles are ok for the role—and the color of his hair. But other than that...? But ok, I will say "amen" to your suggestion if I can get Scott Bakula and Bette Midler playing Han's parents...!

Tim Blaes: Bail Organa...is Bail a name? Or—like Moff—a title? That too wasn't explained. Just like that "Obi-Wan" bit. And I don't think it was in the movies. Just in the novel.

Luke and the Last Crusade. I like that. Guess we ought to be grateful there was no produce placement by the sponsoring companies in SW. To think that an umbrella manufacturer might have insisted on changing the titles... Star Wars—A New Umbrella; The Empire Closes the Umbrella; The Return of the Soaked Ones.

Your answer to Marti Schuller: If word got out that...well, if THAT would make the rounds, next thing you know the base would be packed with girls willing to solve the problem!

Yeah, the best thing pro-writers/producers can do when dealing with fans is to befriend them. I'd say 85% of all fans are easy enough to get

along with. But how can a fan show his honest loyalty to a show/movie/book series and convince the author that he/she and fellow fans have no intention of infringing on any copyrights or ruining the reputation of the media product and its initiator(s) if the author of the "canon" locks him/herself up in an ivory tower? Had the fans of the original ST stuck with what the short lived series provided them with—ST would have folded in 1968/69 latest. And Roddenberry would not be the household name it is today. It was the fans who—by burying themselves in the series, forming fanclubs, writing fan/letterzines, keeping yelling for more "canon" from Roddenberry—kept the show alive which resulted in high-grossing, world-wide successful motion pictures. Georgie-Baby is afraid of losing power. He probably believes that a strong, independent fandom might one fine day overpower him and take the reins out of his hands. This, of course, is unrealistic and irrational. He could profit a great deal if he would go the Roddenberry way. He ought to be aware that—after the HOWARD THE DUCK fiasco, the not overly successful TUCKER and WILLOW which kind of flopped in Europe—the soft pillow SW and INDY provided him with is wearing thin these days. He needs a thundering success badly. YIJC may be a nice series (it hasn't started its run in Germany yet), but to most fans, Indy is synonymous with Harrison Ford under the direction of Steven Spielberg. So, IMO, Lucas should remember what strong a market devoted fans are and accept them as indicators to the fickle public's wishes and as friendly little helpers carrying the torch for him through the darkness. Maybe someone with better connections to the "top" than mine ought to ask people like Hamill, Prowse, maybe even Ford or one of the famous Lucasfilm directors (Spielberg, Kershner, etc.)—if you can catch them—what they think about fans/fandoms and their relations to the demigods in charge of everything. Do they think we fans are taking things too seriously? Too far? That we are all a bunch of far-out weirdos unable to cope with reality and escaping into fictional realms? What do THEY expect from us (other than respect for their privacy)? Now here's the stuff dream-panels are made of. Call the "Circus LucasBerger" together, make the boys sit in on an "upstairs/downstairs" panel and have them answer all the questions we fans throw at 'em. (Be still, my heart!) May I have a word with you, Jedi Master Lucas??

Mary Urhausen: ...and you guys know who you are! Yes—and not only they know, but I do, too.

Still JP/Mackie after all these years??? (Same here.)

Debbie Kittle: A mall with a bookstore on Hoth? Now, in case you find one...yell. I might consider doing a one-night-stand on that icecube, just to browse through that store for 5-6 hours on end. I'm great at that. One fine day, a bookstore will be my downfall! If cute men and fast horses don't kill me, this will.

Maggie Nowakowska: Your answer to J. Taero: "Hide in plain sight" does make a lot of sense. Things right under your nose tend to get overlooked when you are frantically searching. And: whatever you're looking for is always in the LAST PLACE you consider worth rummaging through!

"There'll be hell to pay..." IMO, this was just Owen Lars' way of saying, "If that boy doesn't do what he's supposed to do, he's going to regret it." (Be it that young Skywalker will be physically punished or whatever else will come to Groucho's mind as an adequate way of getting even.)

Your answer to Marti Schuller: "...if the gonads, then the brain cells"? Why not? After all: shortly after Luke gets sizzled, the movie ends. All we ever see of Luke after that is him

—trying to save his "beloved daddy"/weeping over Darthie's death...which (keeping in mind what Vader did to him, his family, his friends) isn't exactly rational behavior);

—returning to the Ewok village, cuddling up to whomever seems willing to answer his affections, burning the remains of Vader—and seeing things no one else sees (the 3 Stooges!).

So, it IS possible that young Skywalker went Murdoch and will spend the rest of his time in a rubber room. They're coming to take me away, hehe, haha...! But seriously, yes, I think that a heavy dose of electricity, especially when applied directly to the genitals, can render a person (or animal) infertile. Uh-oh...poor Han. Someone get him off the scanner grid!

Your answer to B. J. Evans: Indy a wimp? Naw! Never. Contradictory? Yes. And in a very delightful way. Always teeter-tottering between little boy and he-man, intellectual scientist and adventuresome daredevil. Would those critics please explain: what makes a man a wimp? Is a man who reads books a wimp? One who enjoys hobbies like cooking or knitting? One who prefers a glass of wine over a glass of moonshine? One who cries watching a sad movie? Who is afraid of needles? Of spiders? Of his mother-in-law? Or, on the other hand: when can you consider a man

glove (which should be a cinch considering his size) and the Force be with you always.

Welcome Back!

Sandi Jones
637 Dana Court
Naperville, IL 60563-2466

August 15, 1992

It seems so strange, yet so familiar, to be sitting down to write an LoC. I can't even remember when I did this last, but it appears I'm not the only fan who's coming back to the fold, at least it appears that way from some of the comments I've read in the last issue. I have gone through quite a few changes, but will keep those comments to the end of this letter.

It seems my interest in SW has been re-invigorated by having a certain Corellian spend a week with me after MWC. I was happy when Carolyn Golledge called to ask if I would mind her staying with me for one night. Well, I was really happy to see her, though somehow the one night turned into nearly a week! So, I got a real dose of SW and got all kinds of ideas for stories, and will hopefully be bugging zine editors soon about taking one of my stories. Now the big problem is getting the time to do them all!

Cheree, thanks for transcribing the panel from MWC. I almost felt as though I were there and enjoying all of the camaraderie. It's also good to know that SW fandom is alive and kicking. As long as we keep the dream alive, I'm sure there will be people who will want to talk about it. I was also glad to hear that there are some new zines out there and plan to order some of them as soon as I can. Also, thanks for all of the pictures. It brings back such good memories of the three times I was able to attend the con. On the personal side, my sympathy for the loss of Thor, but Wolf sounds just great. I've always thought about naming my next dog Wolf, though if I could have my way I'd have a real one.

Judith Yuenger: Congratulations on all of the wonderful work you have done on the Star Awards;

we've needed our own set of awards for a long time. Keep up the good work.

Z. P. Florian: I for one like BLACK MAGIC WOMAN, especially since Hamill looked so goooooood in it. He'd really begun to look rather tacky in some of his last films and TV appearances. Does anyone know if he was one of the Marks of Tri-Mark Productions which made the film? Also, was this one of the films he's made that has gone directly to video, and when will the other movie someone mentioned be out on video? Also, if no one else has volunteered, I'd be happy to help you with your stories in the grammar area. I'm no expert, but do know what "sounds" right.

Jacqueline Taero: I think I have more comments scribbled in the margins next to your LoC than anyone else's. You gave me a lot to think about, some of which I'm saving 'cause it fits into a story I'm currently working on. Here's a possible scenario to answer your question about the space travel and how the Empire can put controls on it. My first thoughts were that this could have been used as a ploy by Palpatine to grab more control. He could have told the Senate that the "free trade" between planets was undermining the commerce of the galaxy because profits were going untaxed or regulated. He could use the supposed controlling of commerce to really control the free movement of individuals from planet to planet. This would explain why it was so cheap to buy a craft on Tatooine. Perhaps traders were getting out of the business because they were being driven out by the taxes and controls the Empire was placing on them.

As for the communication question, as the technology advanced, so would the technology to block it increase. Like in today's world where you can get a device that will check to see if there are any taps on your phone, and there are even technologies to test for the device that is testing for the tap. And on and on it goes until you can't remember who's tapping who for what!

I agree that it will be much more difficult for Leia to reconcile her feelings about Vader/Anakin. Luke at least had the closing of saying good-bye to his father, and seeing the destruction of Vader. From personal experience, I know that it leaves an emptiness when one doesn't have a closing with someone. My ex has not seen my son in ten years, and my son has recently said that he would like to confront him someday about his desertion of him, if for nothing else than to have a closing to the relationship. Personally, I think Leia will try to bury it, and not deal with

it. After all, she has Bail Organa to remember as a father. Luke had only a fantasy of what his father was like, and in the end Anakin appeared to have lived up to Luke's fantasy of him.

Interesting comments about the Empire containing and controlling national and ethnic divisions. It would be interesting to see stories that mirror what is going on in eastern Europe now.

Lastly, I was glad to see your remark about the Jedi and the Knights Templar. I just finished reading a book that partly dealt with the connection of the Templars and the Ark of the Covenant. I was amazed at the similarities with the Jedi and thought the scenario of their demise would be a perfect framework for building a story about the downfall of the Jedi. I guess I'll have to go back and read those chapters over again and this time take notes.

Marti: Hi! Well, you should know that when it comes to discussing Luke and his sexual life I'll have my two cents to throw in. I've always been of the opinion that Luke needs a mate (and for the few of you who've read my stories you know I've created a partner for him.) I see Luke as being very serious about his commitment to someone, and not being a bed hopper. Having been brought up on a rather backward planet without much opportunity for socialization, I see him as having rather old fashioned attitudes to commitment to a mate. Plus, in my universe he has a soul mate, making all other relationships pale in comparison. So, I'm a hopeless romantic and want to see Luke and Shauni live happily ever after. I can't have that in real life, but I can make sure Luke has it! As for satisfying reading, I love your stories and have no problem with the way you handle Luke. 'Course, by now all of us who have written so much about Luke pretty much have our own Luke.

If I can make a little aside here, I'd like to thank all of you who made such nice comments about my story "Dreamweaver" in the last issue of TREMOR IN THE FORCE. I suppose I did open a vein and bleed all over the pages, but when it comes to Skywalker I tend to do that quite a bit.

Lisa Cowan: Thank you for the information on Mark. I hope you'll continue to keep us posted on him and anyone else related to SW. Also, thanks for the info on SW Collection Trading Post, sounds like something I'd be interested in looking into. Could you possibly give us the translation of MIFBWY in Tolkein's Elvish? I'd like to have it just for the heck of it.

A. G. Steyn: As for the Jedi being willing

but the girls being rare, I guess you haven't read most of my fanfic. I've been accused of having too many mates for Luke.

As to your "what ifs" about Vader knowing who Luke and Leia were, I think you've made some fine points for an alternative storyline, but I think that the line Vader delivers when he realizes who Leia is makes those speculations only ideas for stories. Though I do like how you went so far as to speculate that DV's statement might have been a ploy. I guess it's hard for me to accept that since we know that this was such an epiphany for Lucas in his determining how to draw Luke into the final confrontation with Vader. It's so much more powerful for Vader to have found out the truth this way than to have him using the line as a simple ploy. I think that what all of the scenarios you described about Vader protecting Leia was done to show that Vader was not just a mad killing machine. There was never any reason to kill Leia. I think this subject has been discussed before, and I come down on the side that thinks that Vader was not an indiscriminate killer, though he was a bit rough on the first rebel he came across at the beginning of ANH. But then maybe it was just an off day for him and he took out his vengeance on the first poor soul he came across!

As for your line about Lucas not letting us all die dumb because he's taking his sweet time getting the next movies out, I've had this weird fantasy. I like to read post apocalyptic type books and enjoy the same kind of movies. I've often thought that if somehow I was one of the last few people on earth, the first place I would head would be Skywalker Ranch and satisfy my curiosity about what is in Lucas' files. Okay, so I have a bit of a warped mind, I can't help it, it's not my fault. Maybe I can blame this all on Golledge!!!!

Michelle Malkin: Regarding Luke expressing familiarity with Dagobah, I've set his and Leia's birth there in a story that appeared in my short lived zine, and have decided to redo it and add some to it. I think that this would explain it, but for some reason I'm also drawn to the idea that Luke had some form of "racial memory" about the planet. Perhaps it was a calling to his "Jedi soul" to go to the place that would bring that out in him.

Catherine Churko: Just wanted to thank you for the wonderful illos in TREMOR #6. Carolyn and I had a great time devising a story for them. I guess now that I've made this statement I better

get at the story otherwise my dear Corellian friend might decide to pay a not too pleasant visit to me. Plus, Cheree has already said she's looking forward to seeing it. Guess I'm back in the SW writing mode again.

Maggie: Your entire LoC just leads me to more questions and more ideas for stories, or ways of fleshing out ones I've already started. I really liked all of your speculations on the relationship of Ben, Owen, and Beru. I just wish Lucas would have let us know who is related to whom. I can make a logical argument for almost any combination.

Totally agree with your comments about inherited traits. My dad is an artist, but works in oils, I work with clay and china paints, my son works with his video camera and computer. We're all artistic, but use our talents in different ways. (Though none of us have incorporated any larceny into any of our endeavors, I do wonder about my son's plans to venture into film.)

Loved your outline! I'd done some speculating about a similar idea once. In my ramblings I had Luke running away from the farm just before all of the action began on ANH. He decides that there is no way Lars will ever let him go to the Academy. He knows that there's no logical reason for him to stay. He ends up becoming an outstanding pilot, attracting Vader's attention, and in one version of the story, becomes a real darksider after taking Leia as his wife. I think it might be a good idea if a few of the zine editors let us submit our outlines of stories we'll never get to write and just print the outlines. That way others could use their imagination to fill in the blanks. I know it would help my guilty conscience because of all the half written stories I have sitting in a file cabinet. Most of them I'll never get to.

Catriona Campbell: I'll add my 2 cents that "it's about time" you joined in SE.

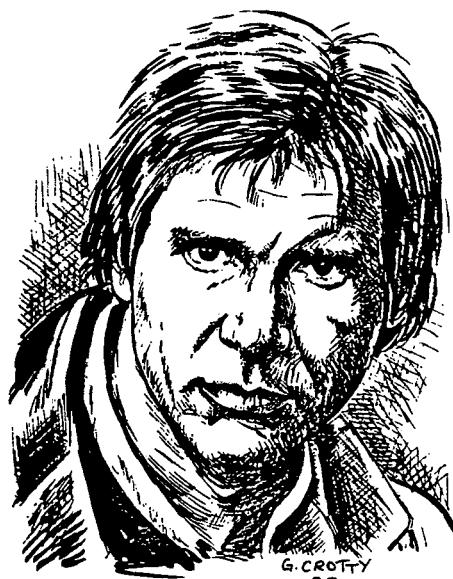
I have heard the same rumors about Macaulay Culkin. My immediate reaction was to wonder if it's too late to turn to the darkside...drastic action might have to be taken. I can't imagine that Lucas would "sell out" by trying to make the next set of movies an overly commercial venture. Those who make all of the merchandise will get that end of the deal. I liked Lucas' idea of using virtual unknowns as the big three. We had no preconceived ideas of what to expect.

Cheree: You had mentioned that you've seen several versions of ANH, like Treena had talked about. I forgot if this question was ever an-

swered, but a friend of mine insists that when he saw ANH for the first time Luke made two passes over the Death Star and missed the first time he attempted to fire at the target. He saw it very early in its release and even stayed with his friends to see it a second time. This guy has a photographic memory and has more obscure information stored away that I find it hard to believe he could have made such a mistake.

Well, I think I've rambled on for long enough. I just wanted to take a few lines to say that I'm glad Golledge showed up on my doorstep and got me back into the SW mood. I've been ill for the last three years with CFIDS (Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome, the same thing that Carolyn has.) I've had to give up my full time job, but am still attempting to make my original porcelain dolls. I've added Vincent to my Luke and Han dolls. I just can't do as much as I used to, or for that matter want to. But, I keep plodding along. The idea of getting back into fandom is really coming at a very good time. I've been working on two fantasy novels of my own, but there are still several SW stories that I need to finish, like the last installment in the ongoing saga of Luke and Shauni. No one else may be interested in reading about them, but every-so-often I get a rap on the head from one of them asking when I'm finally going to get them together! I also have a long alternate to ROTJ which Carolyn has threatened me with bodily harm if I don't get it done.

Well, to all of you, I'm really happy to see that SW fandom is alive, well, and kicking. It seems as though there is no end to the "what ifs" that people can come up with. I look forward to many more years of fandom as we patiently wait for dear George to give us new fodder for fandom.



Matthew Whitney
1003 Allen Street
Springfield, MA 01118

August 17, 1992

Today is the 15th anniversary of my becoming an Elvis fan. It was only after his death that I ever got the chance to listen to enough of his music to realize what a wide range of styles he sang and excelled in. The day after he died every radio station was playing nothing but The King, and as I listened, my toe started to tap along and I was hooked. Boy, 1977 sure was a year—for I discovered both Elvis and SW, and they remain favorites to this day!

Jacqueline Taero: On the subject of travel in the Empire and how in heck did they ever control anything faced with the monumental logistical problems...some thoughts. In a Horatio Hornblower novel there was a similar issue examined. In this case the "empire" was Britain, the "galaxy" was the Atlantic Ocean, and the "smugglers" were a band of Napoleonic guards seeking to rescue their old emperor from imprisonment. How could Hornblower ever hope to find them in all that vast expanse of ocean? The key was that there are certain bottlenecks/passages that open out of the Caribbean into the Atlantic before you can set off on virtually any course you choose. So, he need not comb the entire ocean, but rather only patrol a certain set of straits, knowing his opponent would have to pass through there eventually.

For our SW Empire, I see a similar method. On the important worlds, there are probably orbiting sensor networks that envelope the world, capable of detecting even the smallest approaching or escaping ship. Fringe worlds are all we've really visited in the films, and these don't count. I'm talking about the important places. 99.9% of the galaxy is probably left unpatrolled, but that doesn't matter so long as the Empire is able to control the major destinations. The amount of smuggling that slips through Mos Eisley en route to the fourth moon of Yavin would be a flea bit to an elephant, compared with the legitimate traffic to places like Alderaan. The smuggling that does go on is probably more popular between the fringe worlds than inside the real power base of the Empire (which we have yet to see).

A parallel between the Jedi and the Knights Templar? Yes, I do see it, especially after just reading a wonderful history of that order in the book DUNGEON, FIRE & SWORD by John J. Robinson

(M. Evans and Co., Inc.; ISBN 0-87131-657-9).

Re: Classic films: A friend asked what I wanted as a Xmas present last year, so I suggested IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE in B&W on pre-recorded tape (no commercials—Ahh!). He said the clerk at the video store looked at him like he had two heads (Zaphod?), but they did have it—at virtually the price of a decent blank tape.

Cheree: I'm sure you're right, that the break between young Indy and Henry, Sr., was linked to the death of Anna (maiden name "Grant", for the B7 fans?). It seems such a vital aspect of the make-up of Indy, though, that I really wish the series will address it. They probably do not want to go into that direction, to avoid the emotional downer of death/break-up of the family. Still, it's so important it should be dealt with, but that's why fan writers are here, right? I'm otherwise very pleased with the series, and am eagerly awaiting the new season.

About the Dark Horse comix, DARK EMPIRE (1-4), I am again pleased. The art is solid and the action fun. The Emperor clone is fascinating, but did anyone else do a double-take at Boba Fett's return? I know it happened in the Marvel books (which I didn't follow), but to me that made no sense. Couldn't they stick with the other surviving bounty hunters? A couple of nits to pick with the plot: In #1, on the rescue attempt of the downed Rebel Star Destroyer, a "medical frigate" is lost when the Falcon and another rebel ship come in for the rescue. No one batted an eye, practically. A major ship full of compatriots goes KA-BLAM! and there's not a tear shed? And the crew of the Rebel SD is made up of Lando and a few rebels, no more than could be whisked off easily by the Falcon. Seems like those SDs carried thousands of Imperials (like Enterprise-D). Neither of those bits washed through my logic sensors. Oh, well, I'm still generally pleased with the book, rating it not quite film nor good-zine story quality, but better than Zahn's first novel.

A. G. Steyn: In ANH, Vader's tone when he commented that Leia "would never consciously betray the rebellion" struck me as the righteousness of an "I told you so." He's been taking heat for his inability to get the stolen data tapes, and this is a slap back at Tarkin for his smugness. Moff had rubbed Vader's nose in it when Moff thought he himself had easily broken Leia with the Alderaan destruction ploy. Leia's strength of will to have fooled Tarkin would be a vindication of Darth's respect for her resis-

tance, something he undoubtedly sensed through the Force. Could his tone of triumph also be that of a knowingly proud father, as you question? Well, back in '77, I never heard that interchange and said, "I bet Darth is Leia's father." That said, though, I'd have no objection to the post-ROTJ Anakin looking back at what Leia did then and feeling pride in her accomplishment.

As to why Darth pulled her back when Tarkin announced the destruction of Alderaan: he'd have been a poor lieutenant if he'd let his charge attack his superior, wouldn't he? Any hidden motives by Darth would be feasible only if he were not wholly under the spell of the Dark Side, a puppet of Palpatine, nor obedient to Tarkin at the juncture. IMO, Darth is a pure "black hat" in ANH, with no designs on overthrowing Palpatine—yet. He is still riding along with the Empire's system, and it is only after his encounter with Luke do I see him start to plot on his own. But I digress...

A. G., you also questioned why Darth stayed for Leia's interrogation aboard the first DS? This could be explained as he being personally responsible for it. He was still only an agent for Tarkin at the time. In TESB, he holds the reins of command, so is in a position to delegate Han's torture to underlings. I do agree with your assessment that Han was not as important, but in each case the prisoners were more valuable alive. Leia in ANH had the secret base information they wanted and Han in TESB was bait for Skywalker only as long as he was alive. ((Ed: Plus there is a difference between interrogation and just plain torture. I've always had the impression that Vader was personally questioning Leia in the holding cell and the purpose there, as you say, was the information they wanted. Han, however, was not being interrogated; in fact, he says later, "They never even asked me any questions." The purpose of his torture was solely to lure Luke to Bespin and therefore, Vader had no interest in being present.))

Leia was still important in TESB for her role as a rebel leader brought to punishment by the Empire. That is why I see Vader demanding her (and Chewie), rather than handing them over to Lando. The Empire will still want to try, convict, execute, and display their corpses to the fearful masses as lessons to traitors. Plus, if he's ever gotten them off Bespin and into custody, I'm sure they'd have been wrung for all the Alliance secrets they possessed. Could he have had his own plans for them, or were they always on the

Emperor's Most Wanted list? The latter, I think. So, I think there are just as logical arguments for Darth's treatment of Leia on the basis of her being a strong-willed rebel leader, without looking for buried knowledge in Darth that he knew he was her father. There is loads of good story potential in how Anakin would relate with Leia post-ROTJ, though.

Michelle Malkin: Luke's TESB comment, "there's something familiar" about Dagobah... could he be sensing Obi-Wan?

Cheree's call for guilty pleasures: how about Don Knotts comedies? THE RELUCTANT ASTRONAUT and THE GHOST AND MR. CHICKEN are screams!

Debbie Kittle, Catrina Campbell and Cheree all spoke of different versions of ANH...does anyone remember a slightly different version of TESB? The print I normally saw had a few seconds of very minor footage missing from the version in other theatres and now on the tape. We first discovered this in '80, after seeing TESB 2-3 times per week at the same theater and then going on vacation (July?) in Rhode Island and seeing extra shots in the print we saw there. Nothing much was "added" in the other print: the bacta fluid chamber scene had the longer shot that included Han and Leia watching from an observation port; from the end sequence, some additional FX of ship flybys; and some of the dialog between Luke and Lando, namely the line, "When we find Jabba the Hutt and that bounty hunter, we'll contact you." This "new" footage so floored my buddy and I that we even went to a theater in Connecticut upon our return to see if they had the footage (they did—it was "only" our home town print that was lacking). We're virtually certain it wasn't a case of someone snipping out scenes—for it was too seamlessly done. Mysterious! ((Ed: I think I've seen both versions, too, most notably the long-shot bacta scene. I'd seen stills of it but had never noticed it on the screen. And I didn't see it, either, until the movie came out on videotape.))

Debbie, in re the CINEFANTASTIQUE article, "Where's Star Wars 4?" It doesn't surprise me that it was pessimistic nor that it took shots at Lucas. That magazine has had a reputation for being anti-Lucas going way back, and I've not bought it for about 10 years for that reason. I am frustrated that George continues to let us hang in uncertain limbo. If he truly does not wish to continue the films, I want to know. I do want to see more SW, but rather than boycott until I get

them, I'm willing to show good faith by continuing to buy the merchandise that appeals to me to show there still is a market. But if what we have now is all the SW films ever to be made, I'd like George to say so in public (like Spielberg did about ET being a one-and-only/no sequel product).

Is Lucas really not the master storyteller, as that article maintains? Bronx cheer and sour grapes, I say. Could he be gun shy, afraid of a flop? If it were me, "Hell, yes!" I get nervous investing in a new Chrysler, never mind committing myself to a \$100 million movie. He'd be crazy if it didn't make him VERY cautious.

Lisa Cowan: Well, if you'd asked if I knew about any terrific SW letterzines years ago, I'd have told ya! But let me make it up to you by tossing in a shameless plug for one of your listings in the "Mos Eisley Marketplace." Hey, space fans, IN A FARAWAY GALAXY is one of the best thought-out, well-written, insightful character/theme studies based on a film series that you'll ever find. Plus, with the Lucasfilm licensing lawyers lurking about...it's about the ONLY one based on the Saga. Written by fans, for fans... Gotta have it!

Walk the skies!

Next Year in Lansing!

Michelle Malkin
1410 Tyson Avenue, 2nd Fl.
Philadelphia, PA 19111

August 19, 1992

For once I'm getting a letter out on time. Will wonders never cease?! I had a hard time getting started on this letter after reading all those marvelous con reports about MediaWest. After going to seven MediaWest*Cons in a row, I've now missed four in a row. I miss it. Next year in Lansing! (Okay, so it doesn't have quite the same impact as Jerusalem, but you know what I mean.)

Z. P. Florian: Hello! I used to write to SOUTHERN ENCLAVE a couple/few years ago, but got heavily involved in B7 fandom. I also put out the SW zine KESSEL RUN. Like you, I've had very good editors who have either accepted my stories as is or made excellent suggestions as to how to improve them. I've only had two bad (very) experiences—one SW, one B7—but they were both doozies. I simply don't send my material to people who prattle of "editor's prerogative" or blame what they did on their typist.

Jacqueline Taero: Perhaps during the so-called "Golden Age" the Jedi had managed to raise civilization in their galaxy to such a point that racial/religious/any other kind of prejudice had been nearly wiped out. When things started to fall apart, such things began to rear their ugly heads again. The Imperials could always control such things by force when it served their purpose, and they would deliberately magnify such hatreds for the same reason. In a story by Ray Bradbury, an entire race had to nearly be wiped out before the people who had hated, feared, mistreated and belittled them realized how terrible their behavior was. I wish that the results of Hitler's Master Plan had had the same result, but, as we can see, the anti-Semitic monster is once more rearing its ugly head. My normal optimism gives out in such a discussion. Until we evolve to a point of wisdom where we can recognize prejudice and bigotry for the horrors that they are, we are going to experience horrors like concentration camps, fire hoses, head-bashings and lynchings over and over again. I imagine that Lucas' not-quite-fairy tale universe is no different. When things get bad, the weak-minded seek a scapegoat. Once such a monster is set free, I doubt that even the Imperials could control it in the end.

Ming Wathne: I hate winter, too, and I'm not that crazy about summer, either. How 'bout spring and fall all year 'round? Sounds great to me. Is there someplace on this planet where the temperature never goes below 50 or over 85 degrees? If there is, I'd like to get a spindizzy and move the entire city of Philadelphia wherever it is.

One thing about being a first stage STAR TREK fan, I can drive poor Devra Langsam nuts everytime she introduces me to anyone by mentioning that we met at our first ST con 26 years ago (actually, it was NYCon III, a WorldCon, but it felt like a Trekcon). I also have a friend that I've known for 39 years who I introduce as my oldest friend in the world. She invariably says, "Mickey, I wish you would rephrase that." Must be my nasty

streak.

Marti Schuller: There certainly is interest in romantic SW storylines from just plain mushy to fully graphic. I can think of several people just on the East Coast alone who would vote resoundingly for this (including yours truly). The couple I've read so far haven't been that great, but that doesn't mean that others don't exist. I'd love to see such stories no matter what the Great Ghod Lucas says. ((Ed: *I second the motion! Why isn't anyone out there writing the type of wonderful romantic, stars-in-your-eyes stories we used to see? And why isn't there more sex in SW fiction? I don't mean porn or slash stuff—just a good, old-fashioned "lay" story that raises your temperature a bit. I'd like to see some of these stories for TREMOR!*))

Cheryl Pryor: Do you still have the address for the Brother Cadfael newsletter? I'd like to give it a try. I wish the new book would come out in softback already. I'm getting antsy enough to buy it in hardback already. I like the idea of a book about Cadfael's son, too. In fact, it could cover Olivier's mother's life, too. She was a fascinating woman from the little we know of her.

Tim Blaes: ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN probably isn't the last Pern book. I just ordered a Pern novelette called "Rescue Run" from Dreamhaven Books. This novelette only appeared in a SF magazine before. It deals with Terrans who come to Pern way before the people of Pern learn their true origins. I'll say no more about it, but I do look forward to more books filling in past history on Pern. And, I'd love to see what happens when Pern meets Earth again.

Matthew Whitney: The idea of Yoda as evil Jedi just doesn't feel right to me. That may not sound logical but I recently saw an old serial called "The Adventures of Sir Galahad" starring George Reeves (TV's original Superman). In this serial, Merlin seemed to be working against King Arthur. At the end, of course, we learn that he wasn't. Merlin's going Darkside (despite his supposed father) felt just as wrong to me as the possibility of Yoda doing likewise. It goes against the grain of the myth.

I agree with you that Old Indy is great, and I love his rinky-tink theme music at the beginning of the show. Just how long is poor Indy going to live, I wonder. That drink from the Grail Cup must have affected the length of his life. He seems pretty spry for a man of his age, too.

A. G. Steyn: Jeez, I didn't know I was Jabba

the Hutt. Have I been leading such a secret life all this time that even I didn't know? I'd rather be Leia, y'know. She gets Han. Actually, she got Jabba, too, but that's another story. Yuck! Got your letter, by the way, and hope you've received mine by now. Hmmm, it's a good thing you used parenthesis around Jabba's name rather than a slash between his name and mine. Urk, what a thought!

By the way, Boba Fett's not so bad looking once he's peeled out of his armor. Have you seen him as Edward in ROBIN OF SHERWOOD? Not bad at all. If Han were so inclined, it would be understandable. Han and Bib Fortuna?! I didn't know Han went for tuna. Even with a bib.

Palpatine, on the other hand, looks like the hidden portrait of Dorian Gray; as though his evil was eating him up alive. I think I may have mentioned this in an SE many moons ago, but Palpy seems to be turning into a ring wraith.

Cheree: Aha, and now we come to our guilty pleasures. You did ask for it, you know. I admit to having copies of the original LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS ("The frost is on the pumpkin") and ATTACK OF THE KILLER TOMATOES ("There goes little Timmy"). I even remember my Dad taking me and my big brother (who as an actual teenager at the time) to see THE DEADLY MANTIS. As soon as Craig Stevens appeared on the screen, I let out a yelp and cried out loud enough for half the theater to hear, "That's Peter Gunn!" (I was just a tad at the time.) My all-time guilty pleasure is TEEN-AGERS FROM OUTER SPACE ("I will make the Earth my home and I will never leave her"). This film sports some of the worst acting west of an Ed Woods picture, the shadows of giant crabs as monsters, and skeletons of recently killed people with the wires still holding the bones together. It's a real prize. Of course, the sight of Hitler's head in a jar in I SAVED HITLER'S BRAIN still has the power to crack me up. The "fierce" expressions on his face are hysterically funny.

I don't know if this would count as a guilty pleasure, but I collect juvenile sf books—like ZIP-ZIP and SPACESHIP UNDER THE APPLE TREE, "Matthew Looney" and, of course, "Lucky Starr." If I find a juvenile that I read as a kid or even if I hadn't read it, I grab it (then I pay for it; people get upset otherwise). This also includes "boys' books" (hah!) by such writers as Heinlein, Del Rey, Clarke, Lesser, Schachner, and Alice Mary (Andre) Norton. (Of course, Norton created tons of strong female characters in her books, but in the 50's that just wasn't done.) ((Ed: Mickey,

I have been searching for a copy of SPACESHIP UNDER THE APPLE TREE for years, but don't know who wrote it! It was a favorite book of mine in the 4th grade and I read it repeatedly! Help! I would love to have a copy! As for the "boys' books", I still think Heinlein's juveniles were his absolute best. HAVE SPACESUIT—WILL TRAVEL and CITIZEN OF THE GALAXY still rank as my all-time favorites. His books influenced me tremendously growing up and, despite the fact that his later books made my feminist sensibilities stand up on a chair and scream bloody murder, I still find his work serving as a foundation to the way I think and live my life today.))

Didn't talk very much about SW in this letter, but so many people brought up other fascinating subjects that I hope no one minds. As long as it concerns fantasy and science fiction, it's all rock 'n roll to me!

Jedi Lovers

Tim Blaes
Route 6, Box 294
Hendersonville, NC 28792

If you were at MediaWest this year, you may have picked up a flyer for a book, TEXTUAL POACHERS: TELEVISION FANS & PARTICIPATORY CULTURE by Henry Jenkins. My copy finally came in the mail (with a bill for \$1.00: "Price subject to change without notice." grrrr) and I urge all of you to get a copy. It's a bit academic in spots (I still don't know what a "meta-text" is) but it's a well thought out, researched, fan-friendly portrait of our sub-culture. Mr. Jenkins has taken care to gain permission and feedback from every fan mentioned or quoted, including yours truly. This book could no doubt provide fodder for many discussions in SE. (Ed: How about an address, Tim? Sounds interesting!)

I almost wish I hadn't given you that tape, Cheree. Now everyone can tell how incoherent I can really be. One of the things I tried to point out was that LucasFilm cannot stop non-fiction books about STAR WARS. If they could do that, then they could also do things like stop reviews

or magazine articles. Paramount tried to stop the BEST OF TREK paperbacks, but they didn't get very far because those books are non-fiction. Jeanine Hennig didn't need permission from LucasFilm and their reply marks them as inept or malicious.

Re the blaster battle. I counted three separate complaints: One from the room dealer you mentioned, one from a woman with kids she was trying to get to sleep, and one from another woman who got knocked halfway down the hall by some pre-occupied players. I've never been in the blaster battle, but MWC would hardly be the same without it. I hope things can be worked out to the best interests of everyone.

Jacqueline Taero: R2D2 may be more than he seems. He may be a standard off-the-shelf model, but how much do modifications and software (legal or otherwise) factor into his abilities? How unique is R2?

Leia may not have had an "Anakin Skywalker" mythology to "cushion the blow." Instead, she had something better—Bail Organa, a real father who was there for her. Well, I assume he was. Regarding the glimpse of Vader's head in TESB, it is not at all consistent with what we finally saw in ROTJ. How could he go from pink and twisted to smooth and moldy? Bait n' switch, if you ask me.

Marti Schuller: Has anyone considered applications of the Force in lovemaking? A Jedi might always know their partner's erogenous zones and I bet they could hit that G-spot every time. Between telekinesis and telepathy, there are all sorts of wonderful things that could be done to the human nervous system. If any of the above applies to Luke, then he is either still a virgin or he is servicing the entire unattached female population of the Rebellion. I think there is slightly more reason to believe the former than the latter, but that doesn't mean that I wouldn't like to read anything you have in mind.

Lisa Cowan: Originally, it was supposed to be Tim Curry voicing the Joker in the new BATMAN animated series, but the producers "decided to go in a different direction" and "Mark Hamill filled the bill." It looks like it is going to be a really good show, but I'll probably have to be at work when it's broadcast. I missed most of the syndicated REAL GHOSTBUSTERS for the same reason.

A. G. Steyn: Was Anakin an Alderaanian? Could the destruction of his homeworld, if he was, have opened the first chink in Vader's armor? The things you pointed out about Darth and Leia have been on my mind for years. It could be her resem-

blence to his wife, combined with respect for someone who just might have been one of the few people in the galaxy to give him a run for his money.

Michelle Malkin: Could Luke's *deja vu* on Dagobah have been a genetic memory? I liked the rock music version of METROPOLIS and felt the music fit the story, but most of the reviews I read panned it. The greatest threat to Pern may not be thread; tourism could bring the culture of Pern to its knees.

Catherine Churko: Thank you for that cover idea you sent. I like it!

Mary K. Urhausen: My first MediaWest was #2. The dealer's room was a third the size it is now, if that big. But I took one look at it and went into a feeding frenzy and bought a couple of zines that to this day I don't know why.

Debbie Kittle: If Roddenberry learned how to let other, more gifted hands shape his artistic legacy, he did so only towards the end. At the start of ST:TNG, Gene enforced such tight (and to my mind peculiar) rules that he estranged most of the people who could have helped him the most—people who worked on the original ST and/or helped keep it alive through the years. I respect Gene Roddenberry and I miss him. We were stronger with him than without him. But he hurt a lot of people he shouldn't have by overusing his power.

Maggie Nowakowska: I'm not sure I would have liked Lucas' original vision of Indy, as a playboy lounging at home in a tux with a woman on each arm. I'm glad that Harrison and Steven dusted Indy up a bit. But "Junior" is a polished man, under the dust, and I like this show for much the same reason as you do. One thing I hope they develop, though, is his experience with the supernatural/unexplained. All of the movies have such elements in them and Indy accepts them. I want to know why.

It could be that sex with a Jedi can be anything but casual. See my comments to Marti Schuller. Even without training (lessons with Yoda we didn't see?), Luke's idea of lovemaking just might be too intense for him, or anyone else, to handle. I wonder about Leia...

Catriona Campbell: I wish Cheree had snapped a photo of me in my belted plaid (even if it is too small for me) instead of that stupid Smurf-Buster T-shirt. As for different versions of ANH, in America there are quite a number of subtle variations. In the first version, I saw: A stormtrooper after Han shouts, "Close the blast doors! Close the blast doors!" Han leaps through.

"Open the blast doors! Open the blast doors!" In later prints the trooper says nothing. I would very much like to see the UK version of all three movies. I know for a fact that the UK version of TESB was longer.

I'm not sure about this Macauley Culkin rumor, but don't sweat it. We fussed about Michael Keaton as Batman and worried over Whoopie Goldberg on the Enterprise, and they both worked out.

Happy Halloween, Joyous Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

GENIE v. PRODIGY

Kathy Agel
9 - 11 Ayres Court
Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510

August 30, 1992

Hi, all!

The last issue of SE is so inspiring, it's hard to decide where to start the LoC. Well, the beginning is usually a good spot, right?

First off, please note the new address at the top of this LoC. We bought a house in January, and moved in February. It's a small house, a ranch-style one family, with 4-1/2 rooms (the 1/2 is the L off the living room which is too small to be a dining room, though the real estate agent called it a dining nook. A family of Jawas might fit...). I finally have all of my fannish and zine-production materials in one spot, instead of scattered all over the house—the copier, TV, three VCRs, my 'puter, two printers, two desks, two file cabinets, piles of paper, boxes of bindings, bottles of toner for the copier and cartridges for the laser printer, and a collating table that doubles as a mailing center. It's great, and a wonderful refuge from Bobby's horror movies!

To all SW zine editors: please send me clean masters of the flyers for your zines; I'll place them in the ad section of ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE.

There are a lot of fans out there, and they're looking for us! I'll also be doing Oktobertrek and Megacon later this year, so send me a batch in time for each and I'll leave them on the flyer tables.

I'm sorry I missed the Unifying SW Fandom panel at MW*C, but I'm glad the transcript appeared in SE. Maybe next year... And next year, I'll definitely get to the STAR aWARDs banquet! And I have to echo the comments made by Cheree and Ming in the transcript regarding Revelcon. It's a wonderful con, growing every year. This past con was my first time there, but I already have my membership and table for next year. Now, if I can only find a flight that lands at Houston Intercontinental Airport, and not Hobby...

Judy Yuenger: Saying I "nearly jumped over the table" to hug you is a definite understatement! I had my eyes peeled for you from the time I heard I'd won, and there was no way I was letting you get away! The award is framed and ready to go up on the wall above the collating table (as soon as I can pull my loving husband away from the golf tournaments that seem to be on whenever he turns on the TV). All I need is a frame for my medal...

REMOTE CONTROL #1 was a double winner at MW*C—not only did it win the STAR aWARD for Best Multi Media Zine, it also won the Fan-Q for Best M-M Zine. Pat Nussman's "The Bequest" from RC won the Fan Q for Best SW Story, and Halsey Taylor's "The Vulcan's Prophecy" won for Best ST Story. I'm very proud of those awards.

And you know, Judy, you could write a story for ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE, and get a trib copy instead of having to pay for one....

Cheree, I am so sorry to hear about Thor! You have my utmost sympathies. My shepherd Kelly was about the same age when she had her heart attack and died. Thankfully, I had BJ, my Schnauzer, at the time. And when he died the weekend after MW*C three years ago, I had Barney and Davey (the Hounds From Hell) to love me through it. You made the right decision in getting Wolf as soon as you did. I can't wait to see a picture! Please run one soon?

For all of you who are on Prodigy—come on over to GENIE, a *real* online service! I've been on GENIE for over a year and a half and have seen the Science Fiction and Fantasy Round Table (SFRT, for short) triple in size. A new Star Wars Category started up about a month ago and is one of the busiest cats on the service. Most of the fans are new (and I've been pushing SE like crazy to

them), but there are old hands on board too, familiar names like Deb Walsh, Tish Wells, Bev Clark, Linda Deneroff, and Mary Jean Holmes. The only SE subscribers are Nora Mayers and myself, but we'd really love to see more of you. You won't encounter the censorship and delays in message posting that you run into on *P*, and there's no E-mail fee. And the rate of \$4.95 per month (Basic Services in non-prime time) can't be beat. And for you Pern fans, there are two entire Categories dedicated to McCaffrey—one is dedicated to discussions of her works, while the other is dedicated to the various fan clubs (Judy, Sable and StarRise are both online!).

Z. P. Florian: That was *you* at MediaWest? Do you know how many times I saw you at panels and didn't know who you were? Next time, though, I'll know. And I'll happily volunteer to go over the grammar in your stories for you—with me, editing is an addiction (they don't call me the Mutant Ninja Editor for nothing!).

Jacqueline Taero: You are *definitely* old guard in SW fandom—wear the badge proudly.

Zines on disks? Please, God, no! Like yours, my eyes could never stand the strain! I gladly accept electronic submissions for my zines, but only final draft submissions and even those need to have hardcopy sent along in case the file translates as garbage. Initial submissions have to come in on hardcopy for the edit. I've had people offer to send me disks containing their 150-page stories, expecting me to print it out for editing! This little cowgirl doesn't have that large a budget, however.

And zines on disks lend themselves frighteningly well to bootlegging. The idea scares the hell out of me.

Ming Wathne: I've just started using the mouse in the past few months, since I installed Windows on my 'puter. I type with the keyboard in my lap (sitting in a high-backed resin lawn chair) and prop a clipboard with a mouse pad on the right arm of the chair. Bobby came to the door of my room (or office, if you prefer) one day and got a kick of watching me play Solitaire with my right hand on the mouse and my left in a box of chocolate. It's all a matter of priorities....

Marti Schuller: I'd love to see those romantic Luke stories you mentioned—especially for ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE! I'm a mush from the get-go.

Lisa Cowan: Please tell us more about Prince Allahsaun! What are his bloodlines? How is he trained?

For those of you who don't know yet, Nora Mayers is now the proud owner of a gorgeous Arabian gelding named Khamakazzi (did I spell it right, Nora?). I can't wait to see him in person—from his pictures, he's splendid! ((Ed: *Nora sent me a photo to run and I hope it comes out okay in reproduction. He is a stunner!*))

Cheryl Pryor: Nora and I will be at Okto-bertrek—we'll be sharing a table in the Garden Room on Friday and Saturday, so stop by and say hello.

Tim Blaes: ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN isn't supposed to be Anne's last Pern book. In a real-time conference on GENie in February, she said she'll be doing one about the shipfish, and she had another short-story collection with Pernese stories coming out sometime soon. And her latest books aren't collaborations so much as outlines supplied by Anne for the other author to work from; they also have story conferences via CompuServe. Anne then approves or disapproves the resulting manuscript. PARTNERSHIP was okay; THE SHIP WHO SEARCHED was better, and I couldn't finish CRISIS ON DOONA (though that was more my fault than that of Judy Lynn Nye—I barely remembered DECISION ON DOONA when I started the new one).

Cheree's Katy is a sweetie! At MW*C, she drew me a different picture every day, shared my potato chips at lunch, and helped me pack up my table on Monday. And that smile is guaranteed to melt the heart of Darth Vader!

Jennifer Moore: I loved the new hotel. The staff seemed a little shell-shocked the first day, but they got with it by Friday morning. The people I dealt with couldn't do enough to help, and when I was leaving, a manager even gave me a Morgan horse calendar I'd admired back in shipping! The restaurant was a little disorganized on Friday, but the food wasn't that bad—we ate there on Friday and Sunday evenings and Sunday and Monday mornings, and I was pretty happy with the food—my one complaint was that the room was too cold. I certainly hope they hold it there next year.

Deb Kittle: I'd rather live on Tatooine, thanks. Cold weather and I have never gotten along.

On to other stuff... ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE has been pushed back to from January '93 to March '93, to coincide with Revelcon, since I think it's better for a new zine to come out in conjunction with a con. It's filling nicely, but there's always room for more, from experienced and new writers alike. First draft submissions are due

by December 1st. I have a couple of reprints of classic SW stories lined up, with their original art, as well as a number of all-new stories, poems, and illos. And yes, I'll be doing a second issue.

Well, that's enough for now (and I can hear the sighs of relief from here!). See you next time!

SW Trading Cards

Cheryl D. Pryor
2458 Stone Post Terrace
Richmond, VA 23233-1504

August 26, 1992

Hi! It was great reading all the MWC reports. With three-fourths of the year to go til the next one, reliving the con experience was a much needed boost!

We're still feeling the boost of SW resurgence here at the old comic shop. Not only are Dark Empires selling well, but action figures have become quite popular. I even have kids who come in and argue over who gets the last remaining Yoda! There's also supposed to be a new card series from Topps due out at the end of the year. There are rumors of new toys coming out for Christmas but who knows what that could turn out to be—more "snap together" (fall apart later) models, maybe?

If you hear rumors of a resurgence in the fandom here in the East, it's all a plot. Some of the local fans around here have decided to wear SW costumes—even at Trek cons—so folks will know SW fandom is still kicking.

Speaking of toys, if any of you out there collect the Kenner SW toys and would like copies of the instruction booklets (invaluable for sticker placement and telling you whether you're complete or not), let me know and I'll be glad to make copies. I'd picked up most of my collection second hand at yard sales and such. Lately, though, we bought a collection where the owner had

actually taken care of his toys and still had the instruction booklets. A bonanza for toy collectors.

Z. P.: I love the Dark Empire series, too. I can't wait to see how it all comes out. Just one more issue to go. The cover of #5 was a disappointment, though—I guess I'm used to seeing gorgeous artwork of our main characters then, wham—the scraggly old Emperor and some clone. Hope #6 is better...

Only you could think your goddaughter is tall! Where's that Yoda costume, woman?

Jacqueline: You bring up some great points about how the Empire could possibly maintain control. Space travel in that galaxy is obviously taken for granted—like getting in a car and visiting relatives in another state would be to us. But, if you don't have a "car" and need to get somewhere, you run into problems. I wonder if there are any forms of mass transport. Star "buses" for travel between major planets/commerce centers. Otherwise, everyone ends up in a sleazy cantina? I don't think so.

The main business of that Imperial fleet must be chasing down smugglers and pirates. There must be a constant struggle between legal and illegal shipping.

Now, about those stories, young lady... (a) Write the one about Leia coming to terms with her newly acquired father and (b) publish the one you and Pat started about Darth. The world needs more Darth stories! ((Ed: Whoaboy, Cheryl, will you LOVE the next issue of TREMOR! And with the Big Guy in full color on the cover, courtesy of Nancy Stasulis!))

Ming: I love your rationalization for Vader's appeal. I too have a secret desire to take control and straighten things out. When I get the urge, I put on my black leather gauntlets, though. Is that okay?

Lisa: Your definition of a Mary Sue was priceless, whether you said it first or not. I underlined it in my copy of SE and laugh everytime I see it.

Michelle: We heard at a Robin of Sherwood convention that the Brother Cadfael books had been bought by a British production company interested in turning them in a series. Ian Holm was mentioned as a possibility for the lead.

A. G.: (What is it with you people and initials? Some secret club born in Europe, no doubt...) Gee, you make Darthie sound like a nice guy, all that about Vader staying with Leia to make sure she's not hurt too badly. I'm all

choked up. A convert at last. Maybe the rest of you will realize what a lovable old teddybear Darth Baby really is! Seriously, I really liked your notion that my favorite Sith Lord had some further use for Leia by ordering her and Chewie to his ship. In ROTJ, during the duel, Darth doesn't sound too surprised to learn Luke has a twin sister. Maybe that was his way of letting Luke know he knew, without alerting his master that he'd kept the secret all those years...

Also love your image of Lando as the Space Playboy. Love to see a story along those lines ...hint...hint...

Jennifer: Great to see you at TrekCon. Hope you have a good time at Shore Leave. Let 'em know that SW is alive and well!

Debbie: Ditto! Thanks for the CINEFANTASTIQUE article on George Lucas and the fate of SW4. I wonder if the author was a fan—it sure comes off that way. I too think Lucas may have lost his magic touch. It would break my heart to see a bad SW movie come out. Better none at all.

Maggie: I always took that "there'll be hell to pay" line as grousing typical of crotchety old farmers like Owen.

Love your story idea, especially seeing Luke adopt Han's lifestyle. As if the boy didn't have enough problems... Hope somebody writes this up.

Catrioma: At last! Someone from Europe who doesn't use initials! Welcome!

Well, I'll close to get this in the mail. Since I have four whole days before the deadline, I don't want to blow it now!



Anne-Virginie Dutech
12 rue des Cigales
66240 Saint-Esteve
France

August 26, 1992

"Bonjour!" I am back in fandom and a new member of SE, thanks to Marti Schuller who convinced me—and now I see that she was right—that it was the best way to avoid isolation in a country that prides itself on its "cartésianisme".

I usually live in Southern France, in the northern (for France) part of Catalonia. (I'm sure you all know that the capital of Southern Catalonia—which is in Spain—is Barcelona; and the red and gold flag you saw on TV during the Olympics is our national flag.) But from October 1992 to July 1993, I'll be studying in Sheffield, England. Is there any fan near there?

Catriona Campbell: I'm looking forward to going to Scotland and meeting with you.

Maggie: I think your (detailed) idea for a story is wonderful. I hope someone writes it soon. Actually, I'd write it myself but then Marti Schuller would have to think up new ways to tactfully explain that my English is not perfect yet. So I'll be merciful and just wait for someone else to do it. (It will also be easier for me since writing in a foreign language is a source of headache and frustration!) I'd just like to say that since Leia's "idealistic goals...are likely to have acquired rather interesting shades of moral rationalization", she could very well use Han even though/because/while at the same time she loves him. Besides, I don't think she shares Luke's "sense of Greek tragedy" and might think her years on Vader's ship are payment enough for her "sins". And since she "survived Vader's moods", I'm sure she'd be able to survive Luke's plans—especially if she had learned from Luke what Vader and Palpatine have taught him.

And also, wouldn't Luke be at least a little bit jealous if there is something between Han and Leia, whom Skywalker had considered as more than a sister just a little while before? Would his decision to "go down in flames" with Leia, partly be a reaction to that feeling? (sigh) It is not going to be easy to wait for someone to publish that story...

Your idea about Kenobi not being the "mastermind of baby-hiding" is also very interesting. Personally, I have never liked Obi-Wan, so I have always assumed that he was to blame for every-

thing. Now you have me thinking: Have I misjudged him?

I agree with you: abilities and personal inclinations are two different things. I think the latter are due to the environment the child grows up in, although a child can follow a family tradition and accept his parents' values, or turn against those values. Whatever the case, I do not think the importance of the kind of upbringing a child receives can be denied. For this reason, Luke and Leia must be very different from their biological parents and from one another. Besides, they do not share more genes than "regular" siblings, and I am not sure whether it can be argued that they share a "link" which was established between them before they were born. Of course, I am not an expert on the Force and what it can do... I may also be prejudiced by the rationality my compatriots would like to consider a typically French trait, or by a certain Corellian's contempt for "mumbo-jumbo"... I don't know. What do you think?

Jacqueline Taero: I think the Empire controls the space lanes and the landings and departures in the most "central" or essential parts of the Empire, where there is maybe more population, and at least more wealth and power. If the seats of power are under imperial control, maybe the Imps do not need tight control of politically and financially insignificant worlds. So blasting out of Tatooine is possible, in spite of Imperial fire, because this planet does not seem strategically important. (The Emperor probably does not care about a few natives and settlers on a distant desert world, which is probably why smugglers, pirates and the like thrive there.) I think "the second problem facing the Improbable Empire", that of communication, can be solved by a state monopoly on all communications media: maybe satellites or "relay stations" are needed to communicate from one world to another. If the use of those stations is strictly restricted and controlled, it might be difficult to escape the Empire's scrutiny. I can't believe that anyone can just send a message on whatever frequency s/he chooses, because with billions and billions of people sending messages, the available frequencies would be saturated and all messages would be jammed by others on the same frequency. Which is why I imagine some kind of relay stations that would dispatch and control the way messages are sent, primarily to get a maximum efficiency and then later to control communications.

Re Maggie: I too feel Leia might think she

and Luke should not have children because of their heritage. And unless she is psychologically unusually strong, she will find it hard to deal with that heritage. (But, then, she seems to have taken Alderaan's destruction, another big shock, pretty well...)

Tim Blaes: Re your wondering how Ben and Leia would have interacted. My answer is "not well!" (I love understatements!) I do not think Leia would easily accept his "points of view" and wise advice. She does have a strong personality (unlike Luke who does not seem completely grown up in that area, at least in ANH), and would not be as easily influenced.

Matthew Whitney: Yes, I think you're right: the common "being's" opinion of the Empire would greatly depend on prosperity. If he/she/it does not suffer personally from the Empire, he/she/it can very well live with it. And if you need another example, think of WW2 and the French population during the "occupation": not as many heroes as we would like to believe!

A. G. Steyn: Re your answer to Jennifer Moore: If Ben had made it off the Death Star, he would have driven everyone crazy. And would probably have ended up "accidentally" getting caught in the Falcon's afterburners.

More seriously (?), I think that maybe Bail Organa really wanted him to go out and attract Vader's attention so he and the other rebels could go on plotting in peace.

Re why Vader did not kill Leia: maybe Vader kept Leia alive on the first Death Star just because he wanted to interrogate her further. In the JEDI novelization, they do say that she almost cracked. Maybe Vader knew it and thought she would eventually talk. Later on Bespin, he may have wanted to execute her publicly or make an example of her or say that the rebellion was over because its leader had been captured or strike a blow at rebel morale or... (Or interrogate her if he had the time, but then he probably would have started on Bespin.)

Same thing for his staying with Leia on the first DS; he wanted to hear where the rebel base was, while on Bespin he was only interested in Luke and not in any information she might be persuaded to give him.

Vader sounded like a proud father when he told Tarkin he knew Leia would lie? I think he sounded like he was gloating because Tarkin, whom he does not like, has been proven wrong and ridiculed. His enmity towards Tarkin can also explain that he enjoys hearing Leia's insulting him. There are

plenty of reasons without invoking the Force or special knowledge.

About Palpatine and Vader apparently overlooking Leia: They probably saw what they wanted or expected to see. IMO, the real limitation of Force use is inability to conceive or imagine something. Why would some things be possible and not others? Maybe simply because the former are conceivable, while the others are not even thought of. Why can't Luke influence Jabba? Doesn't the Force bind all living things? Maybe if Luke had really believed it was possible, it would have been.

Vader wanting to turn Leia to the Dark Side? I can see her using Dark Side powers, but ensuring her loyalty might not be easy. She probably values her own opinion more than anyone else's, and would do what she thinks should be done, not necessarily in Vader's or the Emperor's interest. Furthermore, I feel she does not really share the idea of the division between Light and Dark. She is sort of an ambiguous character in that respect. Maybe that's the common point between Han and her?

Speaking of Han Solo, why does everyone think he is either a prince or a "gutter rat"? Statistically, the odds are... (Yes, I know! Let me rephrase that.) He could have a "normal", average, middle-class background. Maybe his father was a high school teacher and his mother an insurance clerk! That seems as plausible as anything else, although maybe not as romantic.

Well, enough speculation, and back to this mundane world. I am looking for copies of the SW radio shows. Can anyone help me?

Fandom: I don't know if there is an old guard, but if there is I admit I am not part of it. Until JEDI (I was 13 then), I was not even aware there was such a thing as fandom. It is not a French tradition, and I do live in the middle of nowhere!

Zines on disk? My eyes hurt just thinking about it! And I am not ready to take the time to print a whole zine, even to avoid eye strain. With my (or rather my mother's printer), it would take days. (Besides, my mother won't let me take her computer with me when I move out.)

My last word will be for Marti Schuller, without whom I would have faded out of fandom entirely. Thank you, Marti!

Well, the only thing left for me to say is the traditional:

"Que la Force soit avec vous!"

Tina Bentrup
5325 Browns Gap Road
Knoxville, TN 37918

Ahhhhh, you guys are so mean to poor Sebastian Shaw. Humpty-Dumpty...Uncle Fester... You really know how to get me riled! Come on, admit it, you just wanted to push my buttons and see me come snarling and foaming out of my corner, the only Sebastian Shaw fan in the galaxy!

Speaking of Uncle Fester, though, I remember reading some years back about a kid seeing ROTJ and saying that that's who Anakin reminded him of. The kid had been scared of Vader but kind of liked him when he took the mask off because it was just good old Uncle Fester inside. So maybe that was the visual comparison that George was aiming at? I've also read critics who were reminded of Eric von Stroheim in GRAND ILLUSION and the Nazi character in DEAD MEN DON'T WEAR PLAID. And then, of course, there's Joseph Campbell's theory of the "unformed man", which doesn't appeal to me in spite of how much I like Joseph Campbell generally.

At MediaWest, I heard a really ingenuous explanation (or rationalization) of Anakin's "puffy" appearance: that it could have been the effect of drugs he is taking, similar to the effects of cortisone in our own galaxy. Tugs at the old heartstrings, what? Certainly more likely than that he was secretly snacking in there for all those years.

Oboy, MediaWest. I really enjoyed reading the transcript of that panel discussion, which was one of the high points of the weekend for me. Immediately after we got home from Lansing, the moving van came, and we are still slowly digging out from our latest change of address. We hope this will be the last one for a long time. But we had no chance to savor all the wonderful memories of our second MWC, so it was great to relive it, thanks to you, Cheree, and to Tim. By the way, the person on page 10 who talks about "pet philosophical theories" is Joyce Yasner. Who else would say stuff like "throwing Vader up against the wall and plugging him full of holes"?

Jacqueline Taero: Gee, I didn't think the back of his head was all that scarred and horrible. No more so than the front, anyway. I think what you described about Luke being oblivious to the hideousness was in fact what happened. Why don't you and Pat go ahead with your "terrific story" about Anakin, in spite of your disappointment with ROTJ? As Cheryl Pryor says, the world needs more

Vader fiction. But, please, spare me the Humpty-Dumplings!

Cheryl Pryor: How did I miss you at MediaWest? And dressed as Obi-Wan to boot! I only saw one Obi-Wan at MediaWest and that was the one I was with (smile). He never told me he had a Doppelgänger, the rat. And I can't figure out how you missed seeing Vader, unless it was because of all the scantily-clad females swarming all over him. Were we at the same con? By the way, young lady, I've been meaning to speak to you about this "Darthie" business. I take second place to none in my affection for the Dark Lord, but to me "Darthie" seems, well, disrespectful. Call me an old fogey if you like.

Maggie: I'm so glad you said what you did about Lucas in light of the YOUNG INDY series. From the few (alas) episodes I saw, I too was reassured that George has not lost his way. His special magic is still there. In spite of all the negatives I hear, I still have faith that he won't disappoint us. We WILL see the First Trilogy in our lifetimes!

I always assumed that "there'll be hell to pay" simply meant that Owen would give Luke hell.

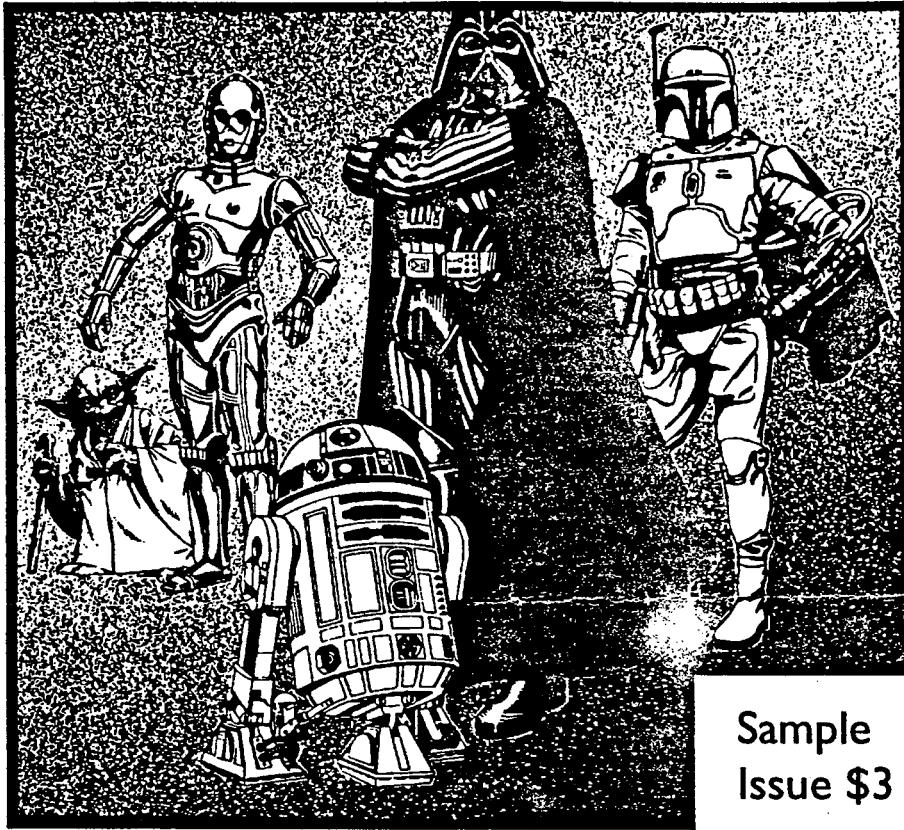
A. G. Steyn: Your command of American slang is awesome. Wie sagt man "Darth Vader" auf Deutsch?

Did anybody see Ian McDiarmid in the Morse episode on MYSTERY? I think it was called "The Masonic Murders" or something like that. He turned out to be the One Whodunit, naturally, and a very nasty chappie he was, too. Every bit as chilling as Our Favorite Emperor. He has a very uniquely-shaped head in profile, which you don't get to see in ROTJ.

I guess most of you have read DARK FORCE RISING by now. How many of you fell asleep? This has got to be one of the most forgettable books I've ever read. I was forgetting it almost as fast as I was reading it. Every time I picked it up, I had to read back a little ways to remember what was going on. It's as if Timothy Zahn totally ran out of enthusiasm for the project. What will he do for Volume Three, I wonder?

In closing, here's another tidbit for you Vader-lusters (and perhaps for you Luke-lusters, as well): Where does Luke nick Vader in their duel on Bespin? On the left shoulder, do you say? Take another look at that videotape in slow motion. Zowie! Vader's armor is to be congratulated! (This tidbit was brought to my attention by Robert Fuller of Kenner, Louisiana.)

The Force be with y'all, you hear?



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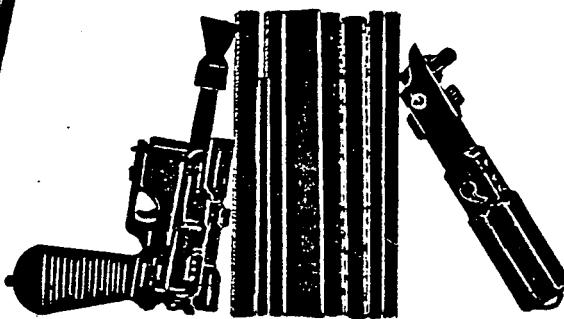
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THE NEXUS CHRONICLES. A collection of VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA-related fiction from the Nexus Cycle by Kathy Agel, chronicling the development of the relationship between Chip Morton and Lynn Murtagh. Available. Limited print run. \$10.00 in person; \$13.00 First Class; \$15.50 Canada (US funds only); \$19.00 UK (Overseas agent: Cris Smithson, 17 Osier Close, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4AY. Please contact her regarding overseas shipments). \$1.00 from the sale of each copy of Nexus #1 will be donated to the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Kathy Agel, 51 West 2nd Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002-2322.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #1: The zine that started it all! Still some copies available. Fiction, articles, poetry by Ripley, Peed, Thomas, Martz, Rogan, Saye and others. Art by River, Peed, Fregni, Carleton, others. Cover by River. \$13.00 fc mail, \$10.00 in person. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #2. Winner of 1986 Fan Q Award for Best SW Zine! Still some copies available. Fiction, articles and poetry by Golledge, Ripley, Cope, Martz and others; art by Lybarger, River, Charvat, Peed, Dani, Bryant, and others. Something to Offend Absolutely Everyone! Perfect bound. \$13.50 in person; \$18.00 priority. Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Rd, Racine, WI 53402.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #3, #4, #5 and #7 — These four issues are now all officially Out of Print (OOP). In accordance with the terms of the Clone Wars Treaty, Double D Press hereby gives all fans permission to make themselves single, not for resale xerox copies of these three issues for their own personal use. Double D Press will not be reprinting any of them. A limited number of the original covers (front and back) are still available for #5 and #7; a 9 x 12 inch manila SASE will get them free for the taking, while they last. Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #6. We have fiction by Carolyn Golledge, Marti Schuller, Carol Moffat, Samia Martz, Sue Zahn, Eric Goodman, Z. P. Florian, Karen Ripely, Madalena Mumford, L. A. Carr, Catriona Campbell, Janet D'Angostino-Toney, Becky Cope & Renee Scheiber, and others; Sharon Saye's Guide to 1988 SW Zines; and some of the most stunning art in SW fandom! Our cover, inside and out, marks "The Return of the Han Fan" (need I say more?). \$22.00 in person, \$27.00 first class mail. Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

UP BUBBLE. The VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA letterzine, over thirty pages long, packed with articles, letters and more. Get in on the fun now! Laser printed, photocopied, GBC bound, mailed First Class. \$12.00 US/Canadian, \$16.00 Overseas. (Overseas agent: Cris Smithson, 17 Osier Close, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4AY. Please contact her regarding overseas shipments.) Sample issue \$4.00 US/\$5.00 Overseas. Current issue #9; Issues 1 through 8 are available as back issues at \$3.00 each. Kathy Agel, 9 - 11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

ZINE SCENE. A new ad zine with a new premise—ads listed according to fandom so that you can find what you're looking for without having to wade through dozens of other listings! First issue is already available. Sample issue: \$5.00. Year's subscription: \$16.00. For more info, SASE Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Inquiries without SASE's will not be answered.

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COMING SOON

ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE is a new STAR WARS fanzine now accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, filks, and art. Stories from all timeframes are encouraged, with G to R ratings. No slash or gratuitous violence will be accepted. Yeah, I know, I should have done this one a long time ago. New writers welcome! Already accepted: fiction by Florian, Steyn, Colledge, Schuller, Wilcoxon, and Graham. Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

ANOTHER SKY... #3. Now accepting submissions for this issue. Please write for guidelines. Positively no slash or Han-starring fiction accepted. For info, SASE Melanie Guttierrez, 6017 West End Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124, or Lorrie Cherry, 4137 Ames Blvd., Lot 83, Marrero, LA 70072-9998.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #7. The Vader Issue! "Designated Hitter" by Carol Hines-Stroede, illued by Nancy Stasulis. One of the legendary teams of SW fanfic is back together in this new chapter of Carol's Darth Vader/Alan Paton series. Also, stories by Schuller, Wilson, Florian, Colledge, Campbell, Treleaven, and others. Poetry by Agel, Ghilan, Moore and others. Color cover by Nancy Stasulis, color bacover by Dianne Smith. Interior art by Stasulis, Florian, Guttierrez, Crotty, and others. Possibly ready for MediaWest 1993. For submissions guidelines or info, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

BOBZINE. MIXED MEDIA zine dedicated to exploring the many characters played by Bob Dowdell. Now accepting submissions — do you have a story from STONEY BURKE that needs a home? How about 240-ROBERT, THE INITIATION, SKIN DEEP or TERROR IN THE SKY? The only requirement is that the story center on the character Bob played in the movie or TV episode. No gratuitous sex and no "/" situations will be accepted. Anticipating publication in May 1993, in time for MediaWest*Con 13. SASE if interested. Kathy Agel, 9 - 11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510

BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #3. Looking for artists, poems, stories, puzzles, anything in the SW universe. Main characters, peripherals, new ones as long as they stay within the outline of

SW. Can be planet history, social setup, etc. Can be G to R, all submissions subject to edit. Send outline or story to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

FIELD STUDIES #3. If adventure has a name, it must be Indiana Jones. If adventure zines have a name, it must be FIELD STUDIES! Stories by Z. P. Florian and Jeannie Webster already accepted. Still looking for stories, poetry, art and cartoons for this all Indy zine. With the new "Young Indy" series on ABC, the field is wide open! Adult stories are okay (no slash, though). Originality encouraged! If interested, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

FOR THE REPUBLIC by Nora Mayers. It was not Luke's youth that made General Khala Jhen Rhessa dislike him as much as it was his own fear of the unknown. Rhessa's personal and professional lives were built on fact; he was uncomfortable with anything he didn't understand or couldn't explain... and he found the idea of the Jedi Order as a major source of the Republic's protection a frightening concept. Publication date: October 1972. For further information, send a SASE to Hill Valley Press, c/o Nora Mayers, 7521 Murray Hill Road, Apartment 638, Columbia, MD 21046.

GALACTIC CASTAWAYS. I'm still trying to get this one out! GALACTIC CASTAWAYS is a serious all-fiction LOST IN SPACE fanzine looking for stories with the feel of the early first season—in short, the way Allen should have done the show! I'm looking for serious fiction, humorous stories (no slapstick, please), stories that blend action with characterization. Submissions should use the entire cast, not just Will, Dr. Smith and the Robot! Explorations of relationships between the members of the extended family are also welcome. Anticipated publication date—late spring, 1993. Kathy Agel, 9 - 11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER is a STAR TREK genzine now open for submissions. We're looking for short to medium-long fiction, poetry and filksongs from the original series, the movie universe, and TNG. Action stories as well as relationship pieces are welcome, but no slash will be accepted. Kathy Agel, 51 West 2nd Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002-2322.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH #7. Now accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art. No slash, please. Send SASE for submis-

sion guidelines if new writer or if you have a PC (if material can be sent on a disk, you have my undying gratitude). Deadline sometime in the Spring '93. Melea Fisher, 1902 So. Hwy 121 #1417, Lewisville, TX 75067.

STAR TREK NEXT GEN ZINE, as yet unnamed, is accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art. No same sex. Send SASE for submission guidelines. Deadline, April '93. Mark Fisher, 1902 So. Hwy 121 #1417, Lewisville, TX 75067.

OTHER WORLDS

CORELLIAN ARCHIVES is looking for copies of ROGUE'S GALLERY #2, DARK LORD (Swedish version) #6, and OLD REPUBLIC READER #2 and #3, good xerox or originals. Contact Ming Wathne, Curator—Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110. Postage charges will be returned for authentic information on availability.

FANZINE LIBRARY needs donations of out of print zines. Complete sets of SIMON & SIMON INVESTIGATIONS and TIME WINDS have been donated by their editors, but we need more—V, UNCLE, STAR TREK, BEAUTY AND BEAST, and multi-media. For info on how we operate, SASE Ming Wathne, Curator—Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

LUKE & LEIA T-SHIRTS. Double portrait in original art by Cheree Cargill. Black ink on cream, yellow or pale blue shirts. Available in L, XL and XXL sizes. \$12.50 FC (\$13.50 XXL sizes). Please state first and second color preferences. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE T-SHIRTS. The following SE shirts are still available: one X-Large (navy), and two Larges (1 royal blue and 1 navy). Design printed in white. First come, first serve. \$12.00 first class mail. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

ZINE AND MEMORABILIA SALE: Wookiee Commodo #1, Guardian #6, Outland Chronicles #4, Southern Lights #1 and #3, Flip of a Con #4/5, 6, 7 & 8 —

all \$15.00 each; Kessel Run #4 (\$25.00); Hoth or Bust #1, Shadowstar #31, Rerun #9 — all \$10.00 each; Rogue's Gallery #8-25, Docking Bay #3 (copy) — \$8.00 each; Kessel Run #2 (rare) — \$20.00; Southern Enclave — \$3.00 each. Last Crusade calendar 89/90, still in plastic — \$8.00. Bradford Collector's plate—Solo in cantina (still in original box) — \$50.00. Dianne Smith original color Solo — \$150.00. MORE, MORE, MORE!!! For more information, contact Carolyn Golledge, 6 Burrawang Street, Ettalong 2257, NSW, Australia.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Christine Jeffords
1701 Capouse Avenue, Apt. 2
Scranton, PA 18509

Liz Sharpe
5137 Westpath Way
Bethesda, MD 20816

SALLY FORTH



By Greg Howard and Craig Macintosh



CURTIS BY RAY BILLINGSLEY



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